



# Ya Boy

12

# Konnō!

STORY BY YUTO YOTSUBA

ART BY RYO OGAWA

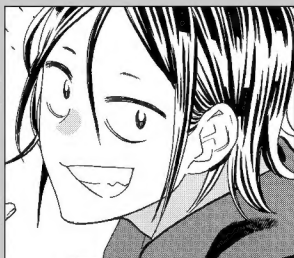


# ya + Boy Kong + mīng!

12

STORY BY **YUTO YOTSUBA**

ART BY **RYO OGAWA**



**Kabetaijin**

A three-time consecutive winner of the MC DRB battle. When Kongming helped him overcome his past trauma, Kabetaijin was able to return to the stage.



**Shino Sakurai**

A talented office clerk who manages The Fourth Kingdom's information database. Determined to be an indispensable force, she was hired as an official employee.



**Hajime Shoji**

An employee of The Fourth Kingdom. Aspires to break the borders of the music industry with Kongming.



**East-South**

A two-man musician group made up of Nanbo and Higashiyama, who both have given up their dreams to ghostwrite for Keiji.



**Keiji Maezono**

A genius solo artist who's said to be the best of our time. However, he's been using his influence as the scion of a major advertising company, Denposha, and the truth remains masked in lies and conspiracy.

## THE STORY SO FAR

**Keiji Maezono** has challenged Eiko at the massive music festival, *Summer Sonia*, to see who can bring in the most guests. **With money and his parents' influence**, Keiji attempts to **pilfer Kabetaijin** from Eiko's team! But Kongming has a plan. He's going to use what is known as the **fire attack strategy** to revive the **southeast** winds. The two members of **East-South**, who have been working as Keiji's ghostwriters, were starting to be swayed by **their wish to chase after their unfulfilled dreams and the goodness in their hearts**. After meeting **AZALEA and EIKO** during their jam session, East South comes to a decision to **leave Keiji for good**. Will the **southwest winds** finally blow across the riveting Summer Sonia stage?!



**Zhugue Liang** (Courtesy name Kongming)

The tactician of Shu. In 234 CE, Kongming passed away during the Battle of Wuzhang Plains, after which he was transported to Shibuya, 1800 years in the future. There, he meets the aspiring singer, Eiko Tsukimi, and appoints himself as her personal tactician.



**Kobayashi**

The owner of BB Lounge, where Eiko works. Quite the Three Kingdoms fanatic, he is currently Kongming's employer.

**Eiko Tsukimi**

Just as she was about to give up her dream of becoming a professional singer, Eiko meets Kongming on a fateful Halloween night in Shibuya. With his help, her talent in music is steadily blooming.





AND I'LL  
JUST KEEP  
SINGING  
MY HEART  
OUT!

I'M  
COUNTING  
ON YOU  
TO MAKE  
THIS PLAN  
WORK!

The transformation towards the Battle of Red Cliffs

**Summer Sonia is finally here!!**

**A Review of the  
Summer Sonia Arc**



JUST SAY  
THAT YOU'LL COME  
TO MY STAGE  
TOMORROW...

...MARIA  
DIEZEL.



EIKO...

I'LL BE  
THERE, I  
PROMISE!



I'M  
SO GLAD  
I NEVER  
GAVE UP ON  
SINGING!

**The very singer Eiko had always looked  
up to was anticipating Eiko's performance!**

**It was supposed to be a grand performance, but...**



KNOW THAT YOU  
WILL **DEFINITELY**  
BE THERE FOR  
MY STAGE!

I'LL  
BE SURE  
OF IT!



KEIJI...

...MAEZONO-  
SAN.

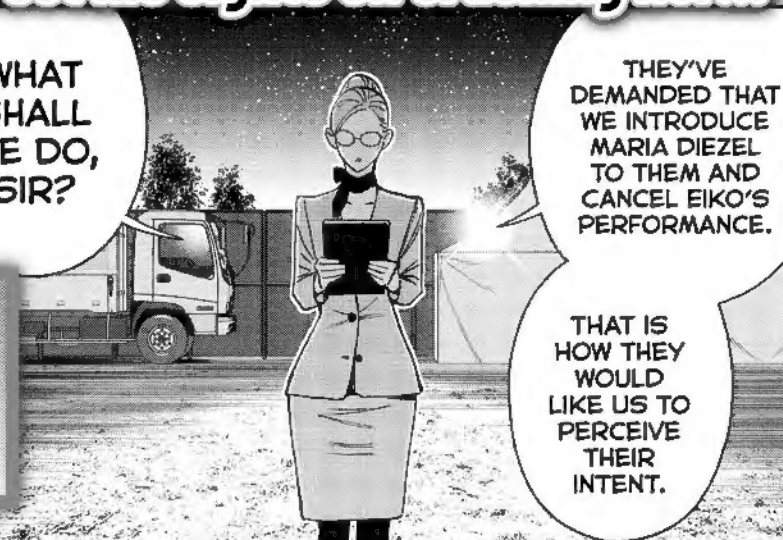
**Popular singer and scion of the major  
company sponsoring Summer Sonia,**

**Keiji Maezono,**

**has set his sights on crushing her...**



WHAT  
SHALL  
WE DO,  
SIR?



THEY'VE  
DEMANDED THAT  
WE INTRODUCE  
MARIA DIEZEL  
TO THEM AND  
CANCEL EIKO'S  
PERFORMANCE.

THAT IS  
HOW THEY  
WOULD  
LIKE US TO  
PERCEIVE  
THEIR  
INTENT.





...THE  
ONCOMING  
SPARKS.

...WE  
MUST  
ALSO  
BLOW  
AWAY...

Their interests aligned  
with the organizer, Kondo  
Kongming and his gang are drawn in  
as representatives to fight for the  
**freedom of the festival!!**

## Kongming vs. Keiji! The clash of strategies begins!!



IRK

Keiji will do anything to win the battle of information!  
Even if it means scouting KABE to his side...



...ARE  
ACTUALLY  
KEIJI  
MAEZONO'S  
GHOST-  
WRITERS...

...THAT THE  
MEMBERS  
OF EAST-  
SOUTH...

THE KEYS TO VICTORY  
ARE THE GHOSTWRITERS!!



...SHE'LL  
BE FINE  
EVEN  
WITHOUT  
YOU!

Kongming announces that he will make the  
**SOUTHEAST WINDS**  
blow once again!!



TO ARMS,  
MY MEN!  
IT'S TIME  
FOR WAR!

GRIN

Eiko's fateful concert  
is about to begin!!



CHAPTER 91

**Might of the Horse**

CHAPTER 92

**The Beginning of a Legend**

CHAPTER 93

**The Truth Behind The Altar**

CHAPTER 94

**Prayer for Song**

CHAPTER 95

**A Strategy of Self-Sacrifice**

CHAPTER 96

**RESPECT THE ROCK**

CHAPTER 97

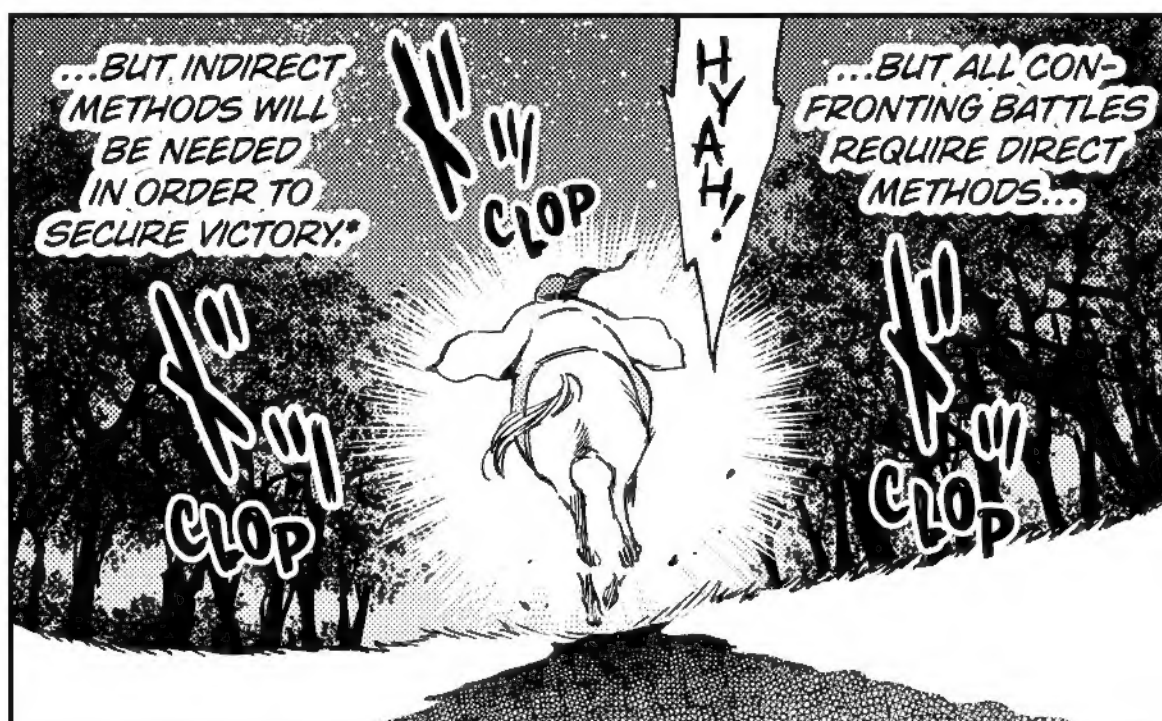
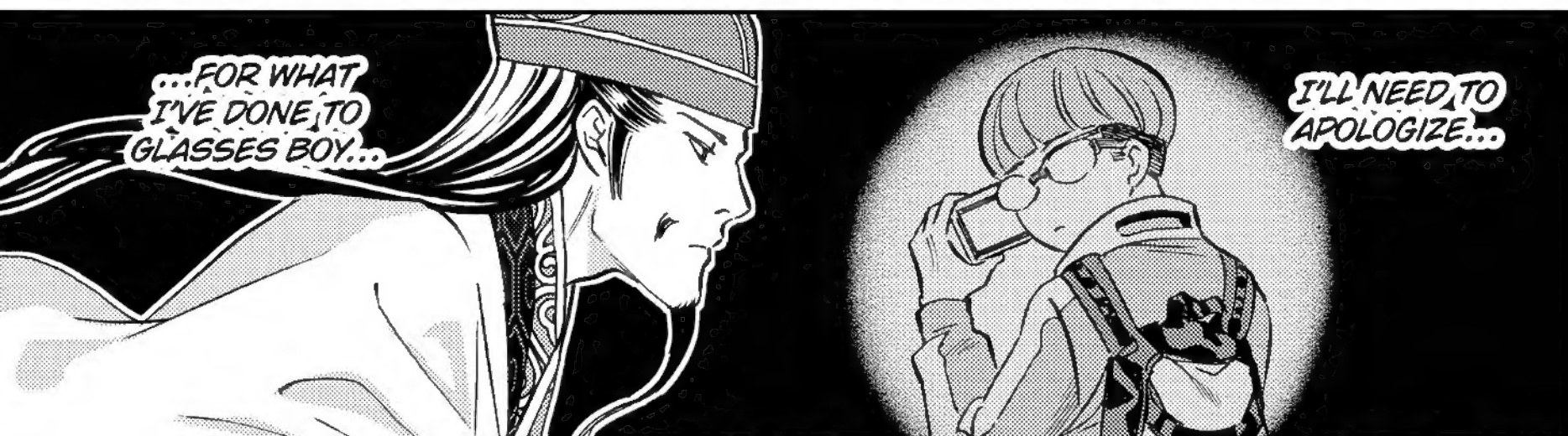
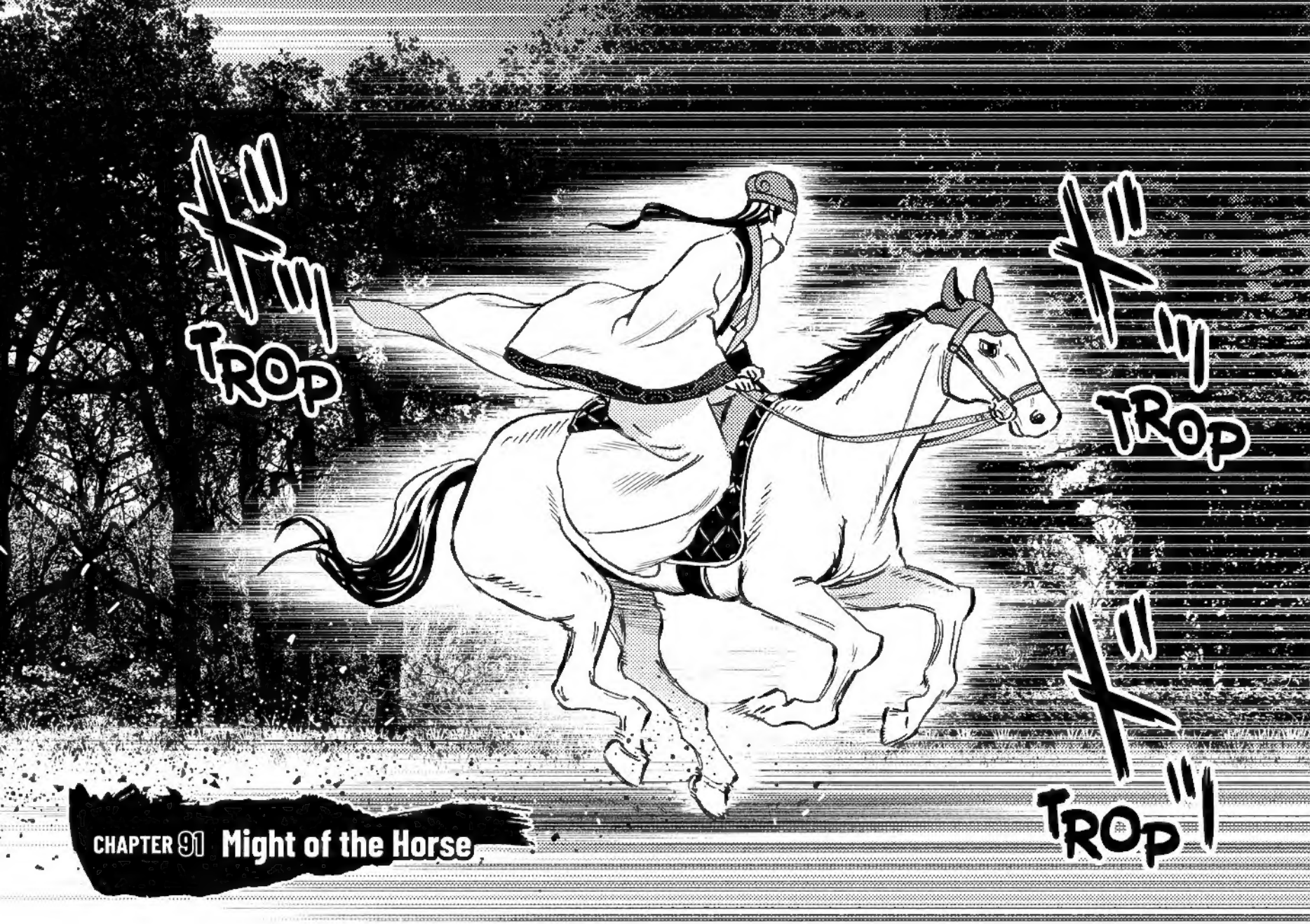
**Rock and One Hundred Million Yen**

CHAPTER 98

**Listen to the Wind's Song**

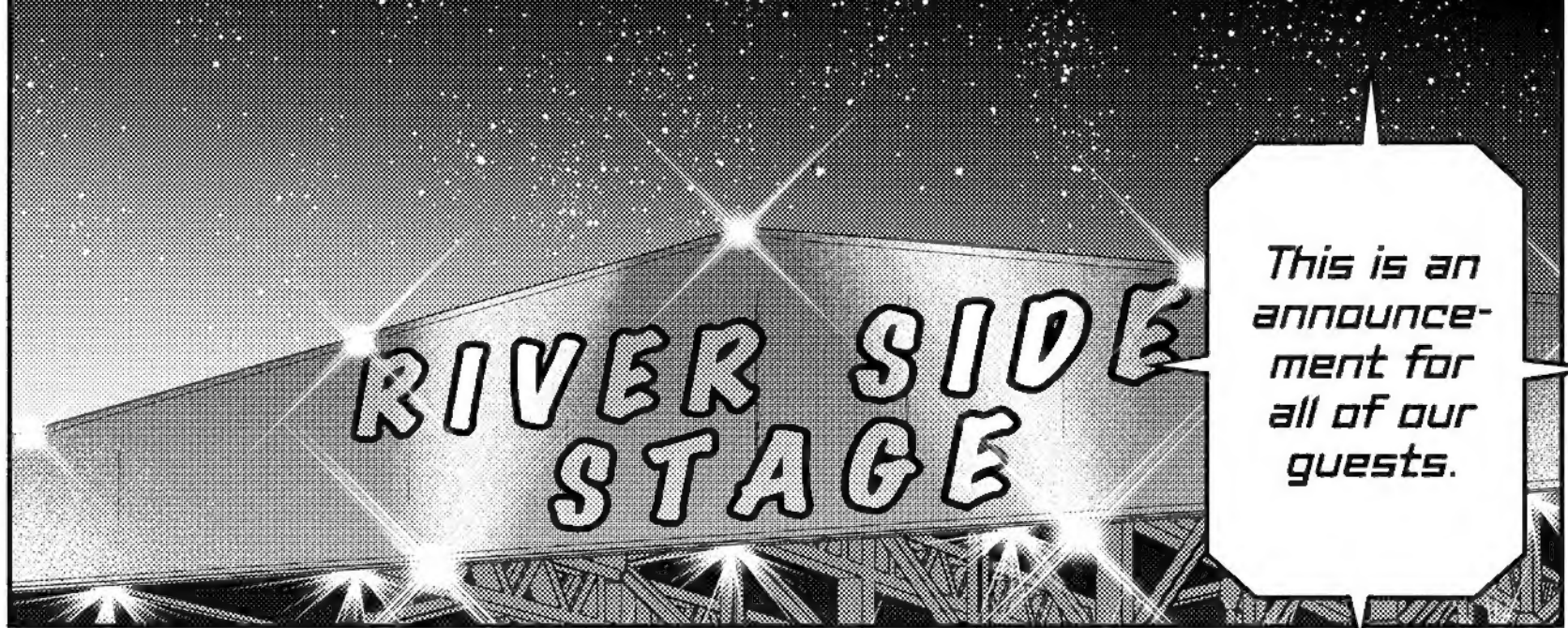
C O N T E N T S





\*THE ART OF WAR CHAPTER 5.





*This is an announcement for all of our guests.*



*...will unfortunately be cancelled due to DJ ZETT's personal circumstances.*

*DJ ZETT's concert, which was scheduled for today...*



*Please check back tomorrow for more concerts.*

*There will be no more performances at the Riverside Stage for today.*



WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO? CHECK OUT KEIJI AT THE CRYSTAL STAGE?

WHAT THE HECK?! HE JUST CANCELLED...





HAS TO  
BE...

DO  
YOU THINK  
KEIJI MAE-  
ZONO...

WAS THE  
ONE BEHIND  
DJ ZETT'S  
SUDDEN  
CANCELLA-  
TION?



MEANWHILE,  
THE GREEN  
POOL STAGE  
HASN'T  
CHANGED,  
WITH ROUGHLY  
300 PEOPLE  
GATHERED  
THERE.

THERE ARE  
ROUGHLY 45  
THOUSAND  
GUESTS  
CURRENTLY  
AT THE  
CRYSTAL  
STAGE.

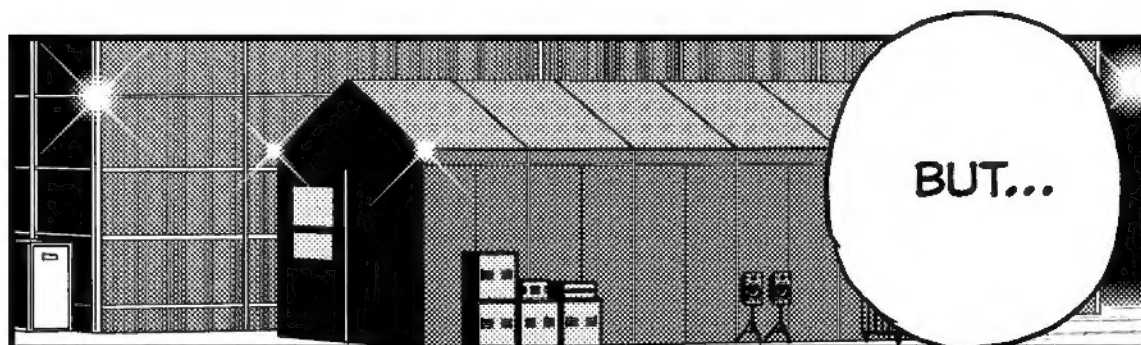
AT THE  
MOMENT,  
THERE ARE  
ALSO 6,000  
GUESTS AT  
THE RIVER-  
SIDE STAGE.



THE CURRENT  
SUMMER SONIA  
HAS FALLEN  
ENTIRELY INTO  
KEIJI MAEZONO'S  
HANDS...

BEING  
SUMMER SONIA'S  
PRODUCER IS  
NOTHING BUT AN  
EMPTY TITLE.

IT'S  
FRUSTRAT-  
ING HOW  
POWER-  
LESS I  
AM...



BUT...



...I'M  
GOING TO DO  
EVERYTHING  
I CAN.

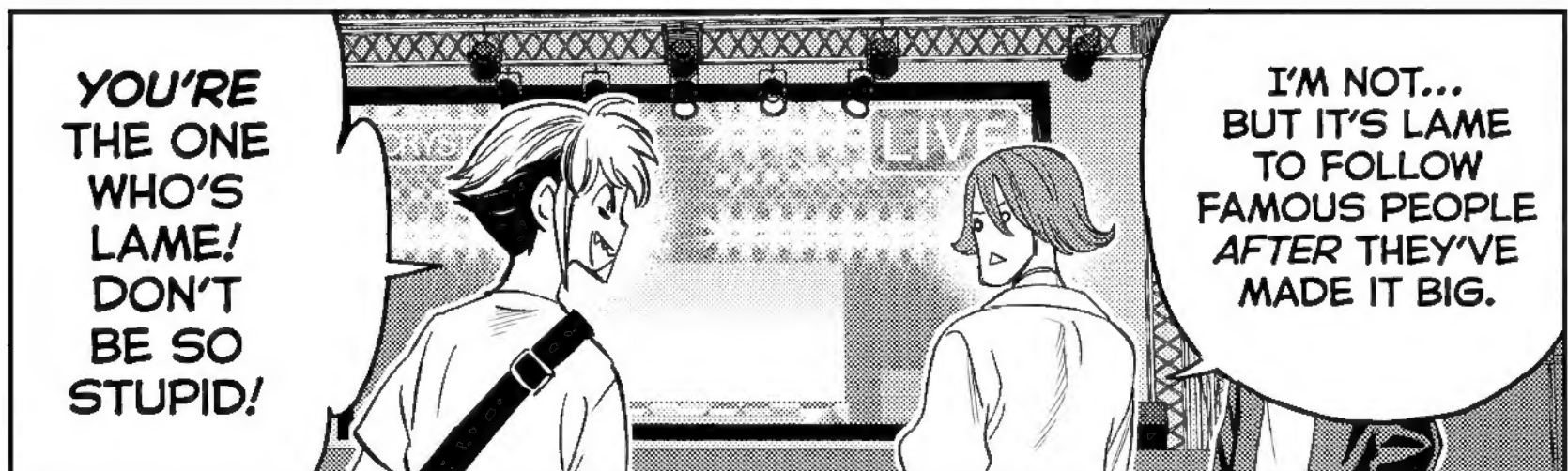
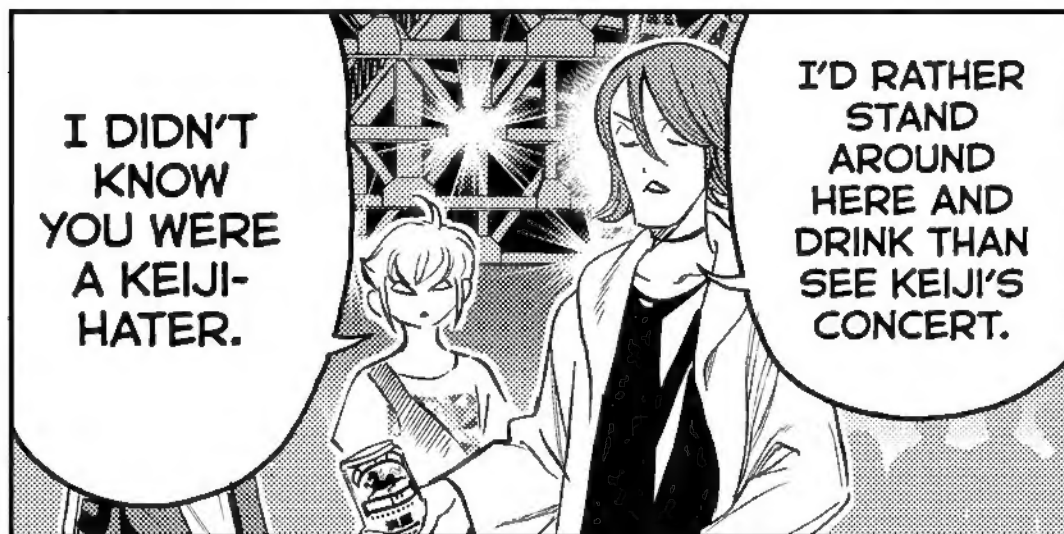
...BEFORE  
THAT...



DEPENDING  
ON HOW THE  
FESTIVAL ENDS  
THIS YEAR, I AM  
FULLY PREPARED  
TO TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THIS.

...









YOU  
THINK  
**EVERY-  
THING'S**  
FUN,  
HUH?

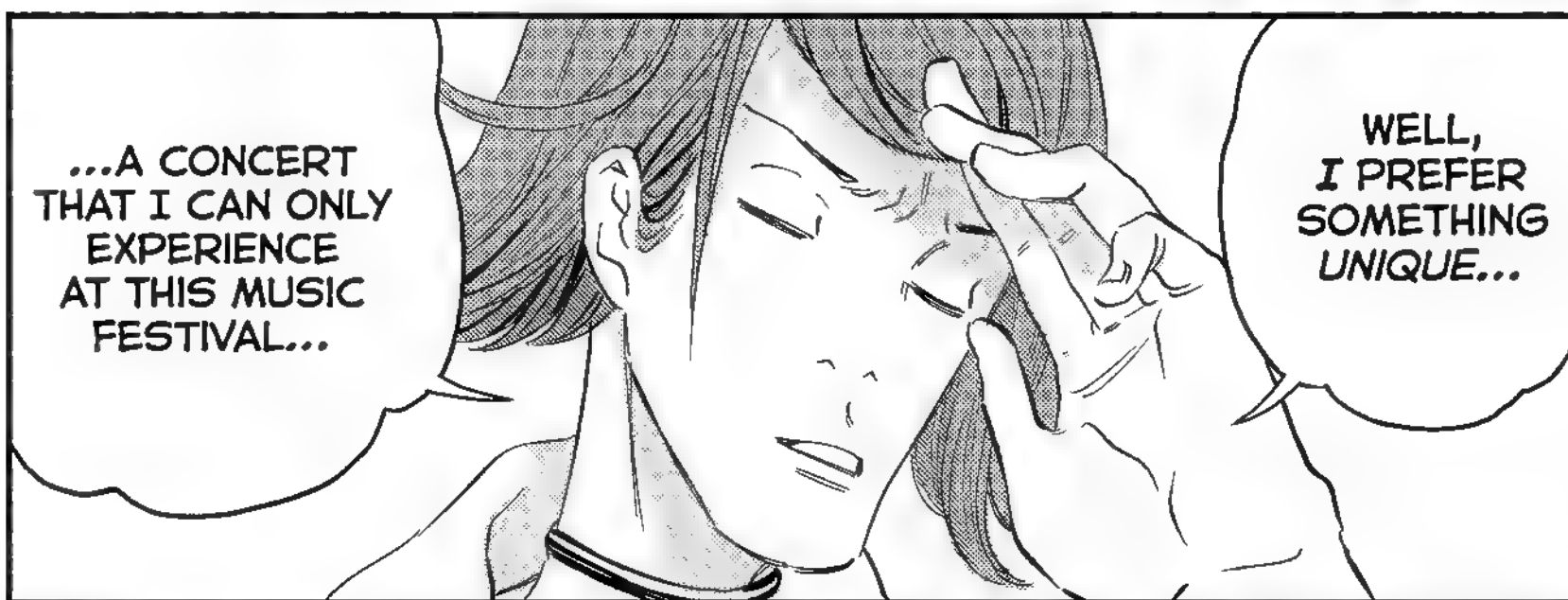
WHO  
CARES!  
A NIGHT  
POOL  
SOUNDS  
FUN!  
YEAAAHH!



THAT'S  
NOT HYPE  
ENOUGH  
FOR ME.

THAT STAGE  
IS ALL ABOUT  
THE NIGHT  
POOL, RIGHT?  
THEY'VE GOT  
THE PEPPY  
VIBE THERE.

WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
GREEN POOL  
STAGE?



...A CONCERT  
THAT I CAN ONLY  
EXPERIENCE  
AT THIS MUSIC  
FESTIVAL...

WELL,  
I PREFER  
SOMETHING  
UNIQUE...



OH...THE  
LIGHTS ARE  
BACK.



ARE THEY  
TELLING  
US TO  
LEAVE?

MUTTER  
MUTTER  
MUTTER

WHAT  
HAPPENED?  
ARE THEY  
SHUTTING  
THE PLACE  
DOWN?

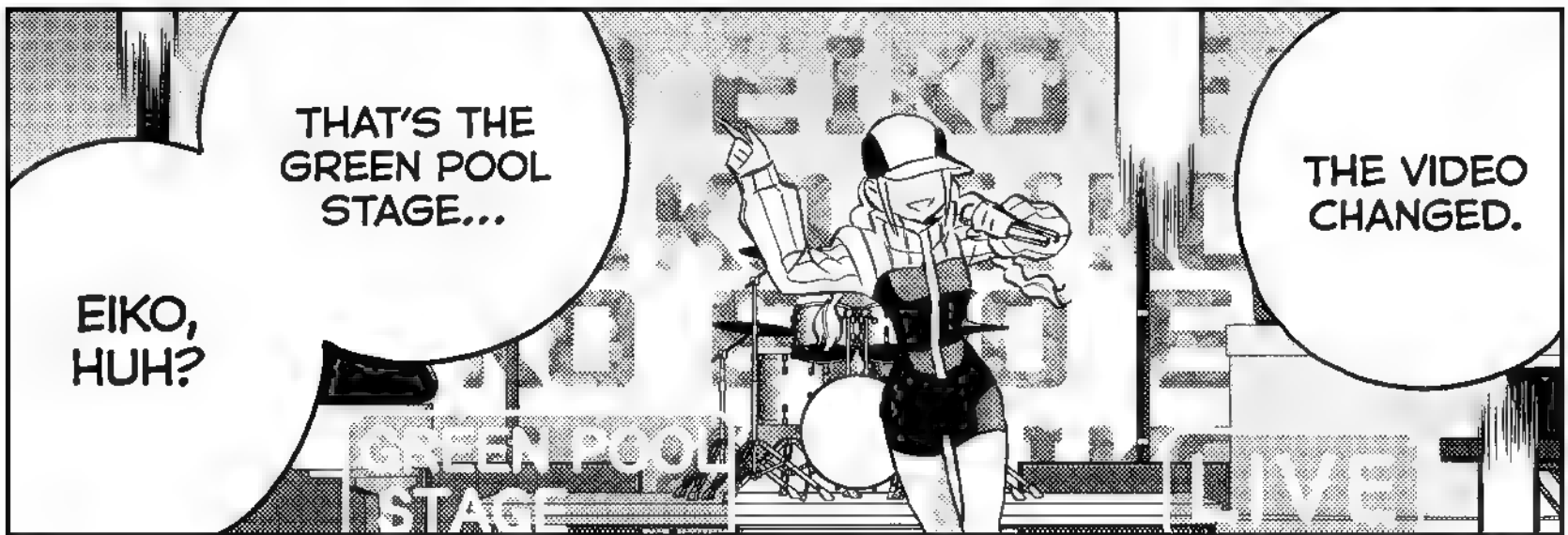


FWSH  
OH.





HUH...?



THAT'S THE  
GREEN POOL  
STAGE...

EIKO,  
HUH?

THE VIDEO  
CHANGED.



EIKO!

LOOK. THERE  
WAS A LOT OF  
BUZZ AROUND  
HER WHEN SHE  
COLLABED WITH  
OSHIKARU.

OSHIKARU?  
THE VOCALOID  
MUSIC GUY?

YEAH, THAT  
PERSON.



WHERE'VE  
I HEARD  
THAT...?

EIKO...

EIKO...



OH!  
I KNEW  
IT!



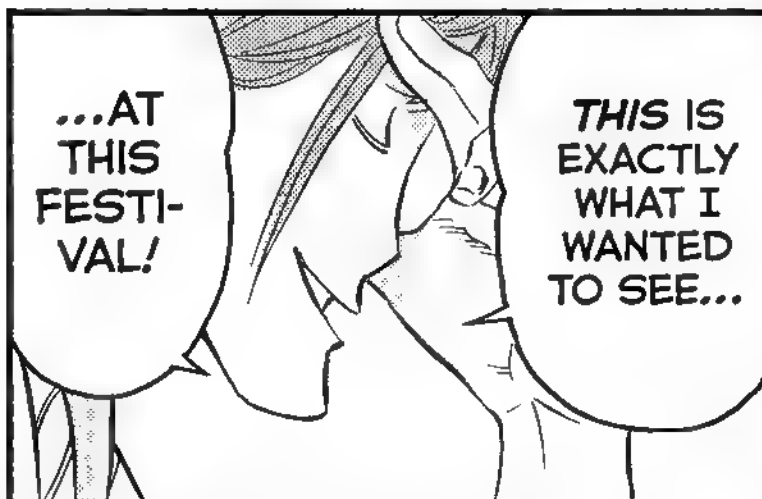


THAT'S IT!

...



EIKO...



...AT  
THIS  
FESTI-  
VAL!

THIS IS  
EXACTLY  
WHAT I  
WANTED  
TO SEE...

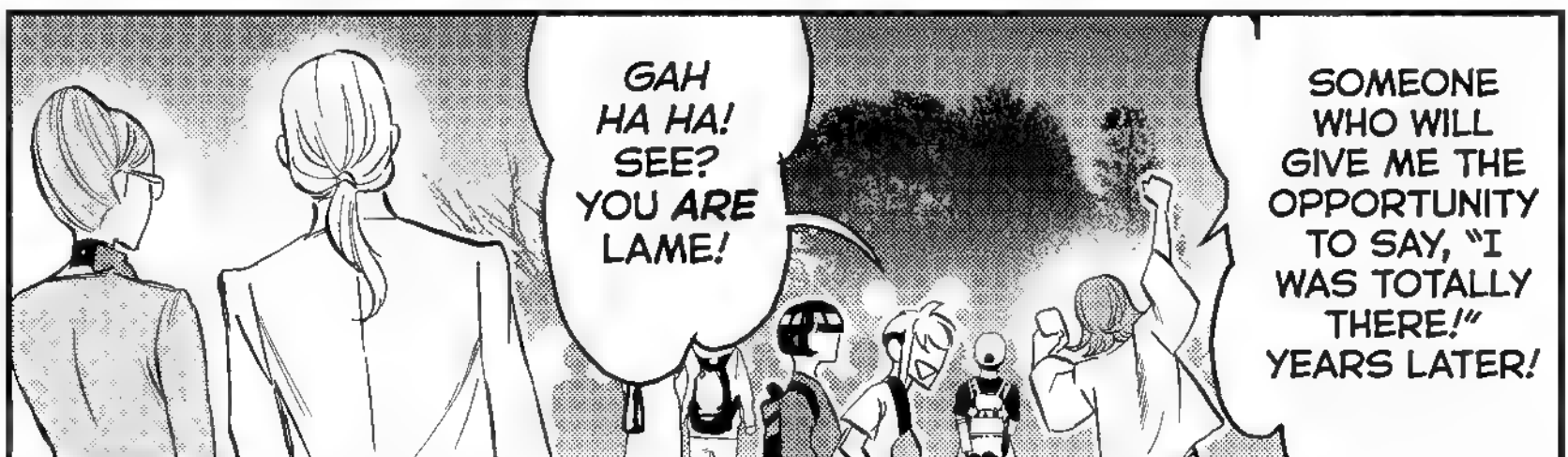


HUH?  
WHY?

I'M  
GONNA  
HEAD  
TO THE  
GREEN  
POOL  
STAGE!



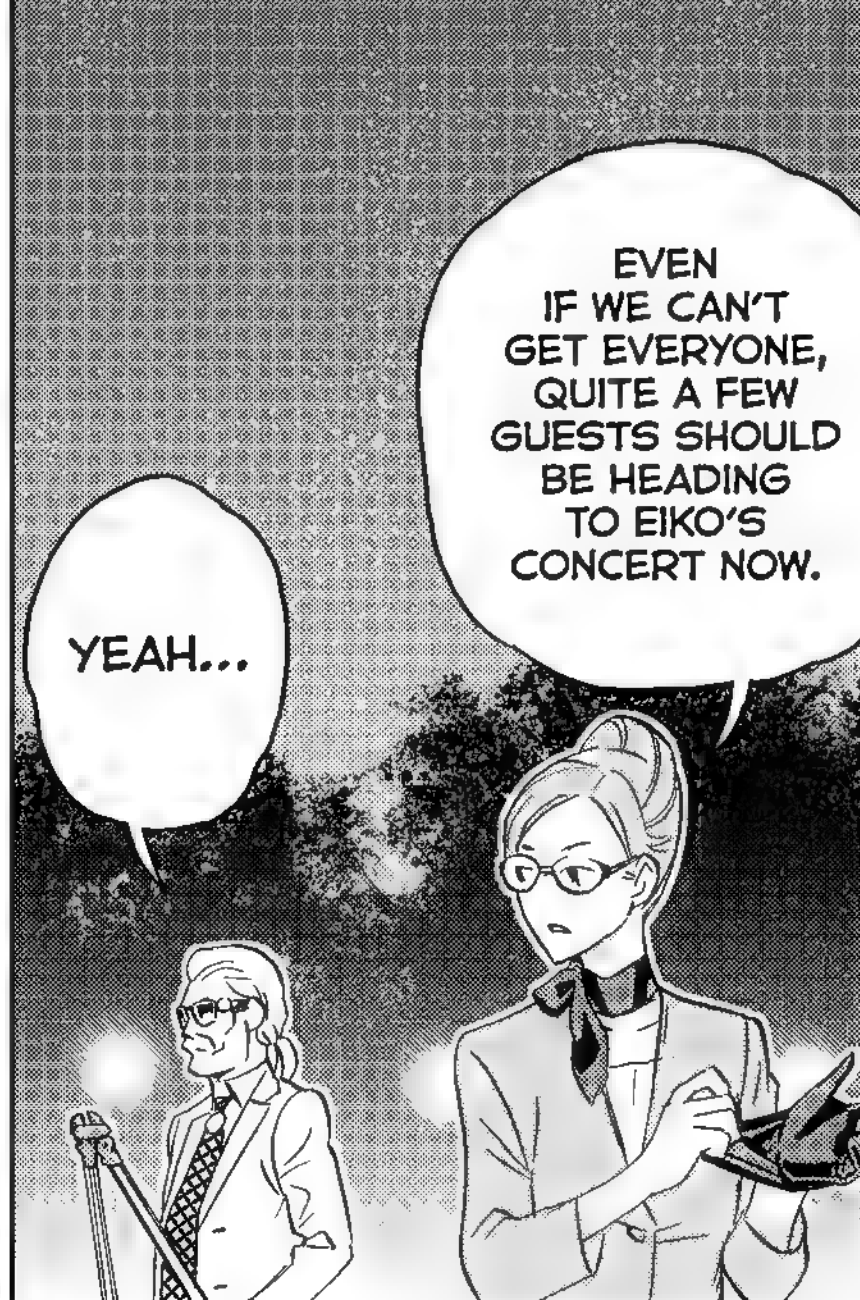
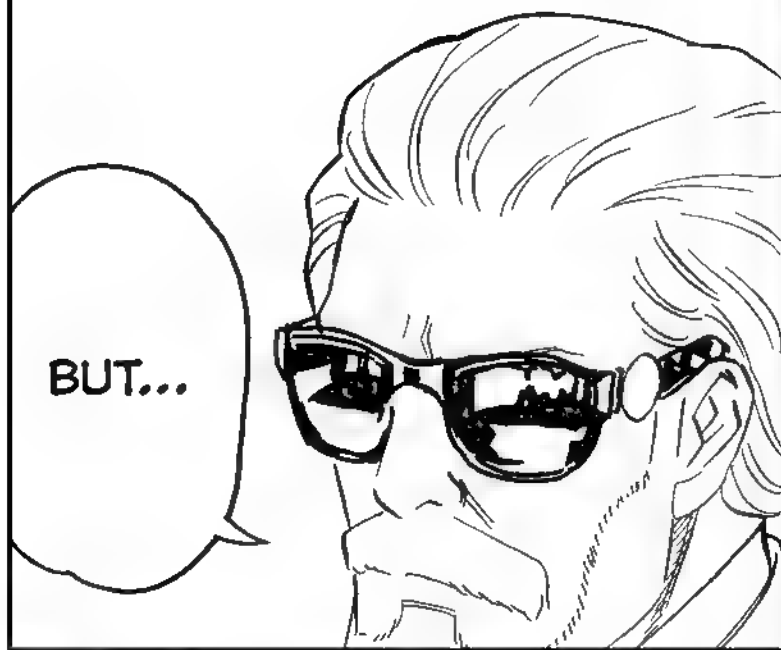
A NEW,  
SHINING  
TALENT!



GAH  
HA HA!  
SEE?  
YOU ARE  
LAME!

SOMEONE  
WHO WILL  
GIVE ME THE  
OPPORTUNITY  
TO SAY, "I  
WAS TOTALLY  
THERE!"  
YEARS LATER!







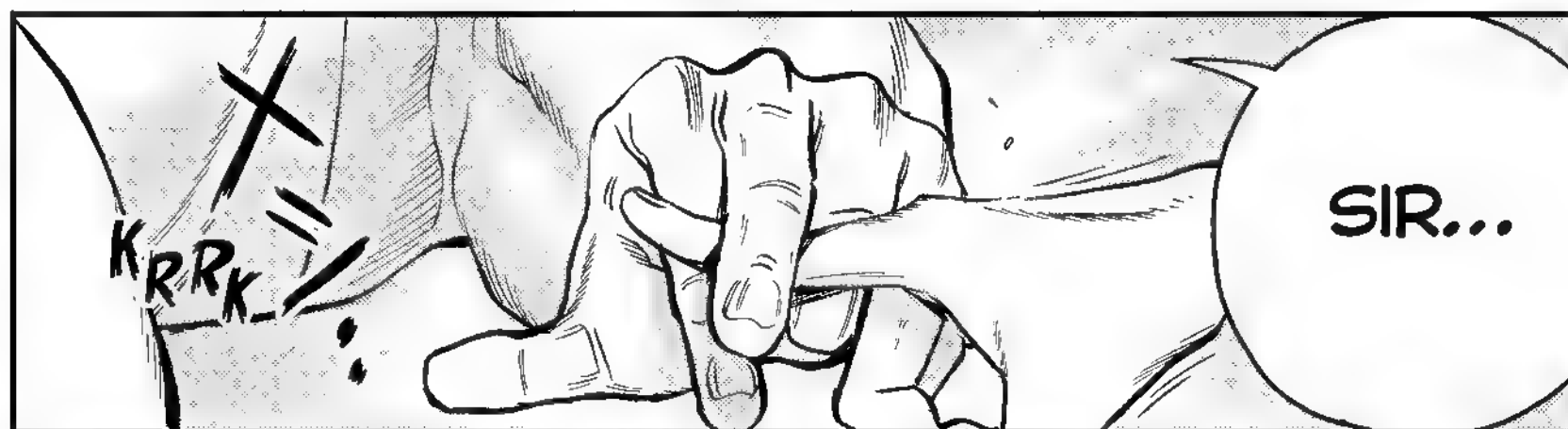


ARE  
YOU  
LISTEN-  
ING?!

...



LET US  
THROUGH!  
RIGHT NOW!!  
WE'RE PAYING  
CUSTOMERS!



SIR...



PLEASE  
TURN  
BACK FOR  
TODAY.



WE WILL  
BE FINISHED  
TOMORROW  
MORNING.



...MUST  
PRIORITIZE  
YOUR SAFETY,  
YOU SEE.

...WE...









THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR HARD  
WORK,  
SIRS!

I'M SHINO  
SAKURAI,  
AND I'M ON  
THE STAFF...

...OF GREEN  
POOL STAGE'S  
SINGER, EIKO!



EIKO?



ADMIN STAFF  
SHINO SAKURAI  
SINGER EIKO  
(GREEN POOL STAGE)  
FOURTH KINGDOM





...AND HE SAID  
THAT HE NEVER  
RECEIVED ANY  
REPORTS ABOUT  
PROBLEMS WITH  
THIS BRIDGE.

I'VE  
CONFIRMED  
WITH THE  
PRODUCER,  
KONDO-SAN...



...WHY ALL  
OF YOU ARE  
INSPECTING  
IT!

I'LL NEED  
YOU TO  
EXPLAIN...



YOU MIGHT  
HEAR SOME  
LOUD NOISES  
WHILE WE'RE  
WORKING  
HERE...

ACTUALLY,  
I REMEMBER  
HEARING THAT  
HORSES  
ARE EASY  
TO SCARE.



KONDO-  
SAN,  
HUH...?

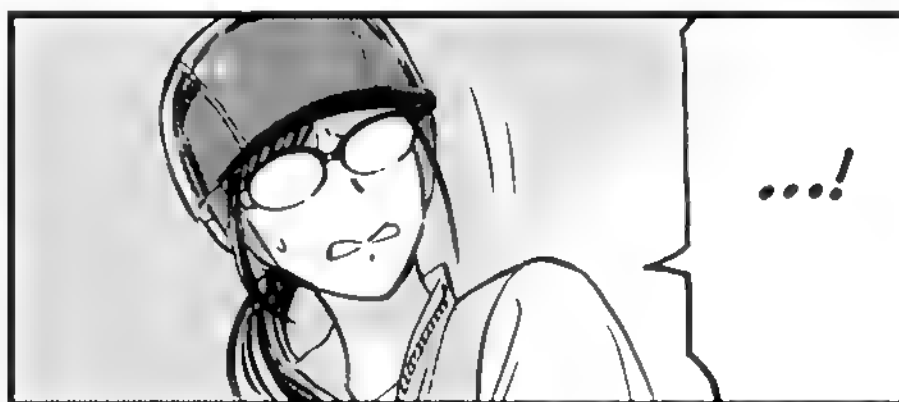
HMPH...



...YOU'VE  
GOT GUTS  
TO COME  
HERE  
ALONE.

HEY,  
MISS...





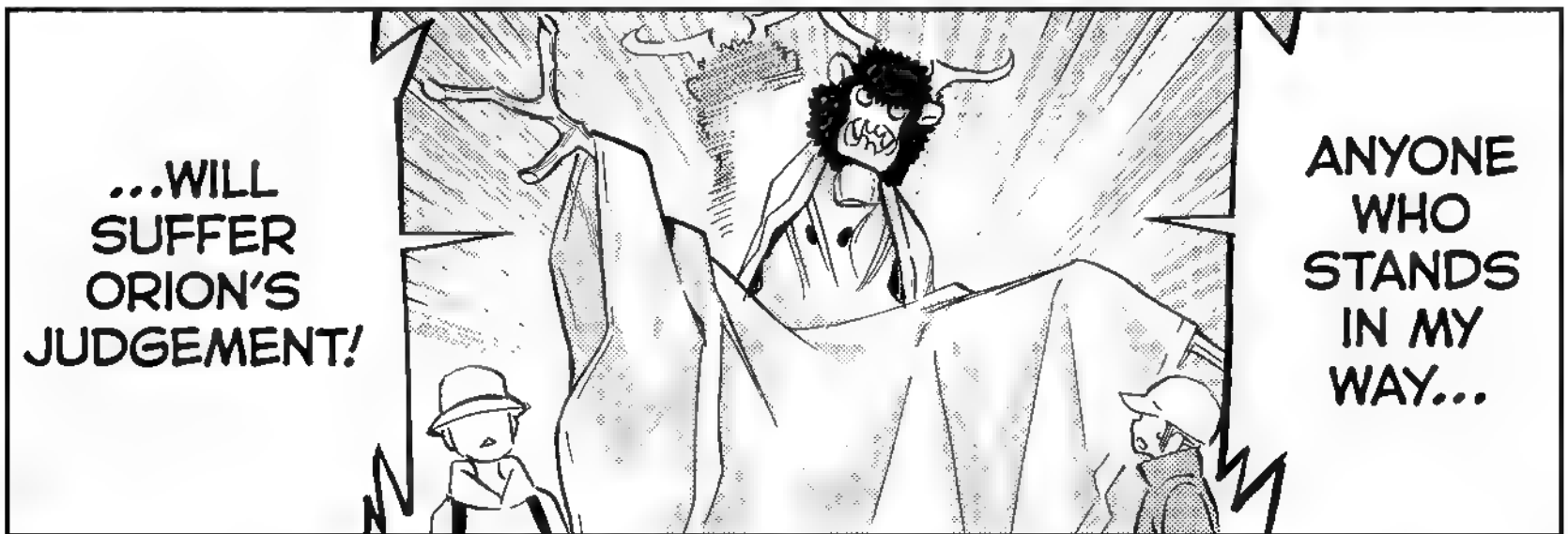












HE MUST BE  
QUITE SURPRISED  
TO MEET WITH LADY  
OSHIKARU MUCH  
EARLIER THAN  
EXPECTED.

CLOP  
CLOP

CLOP  
CLOP

CLOP  
CLOP

GLASSES  
BOY...

THE  
Pincer Attack  
Strategy...

URBAN

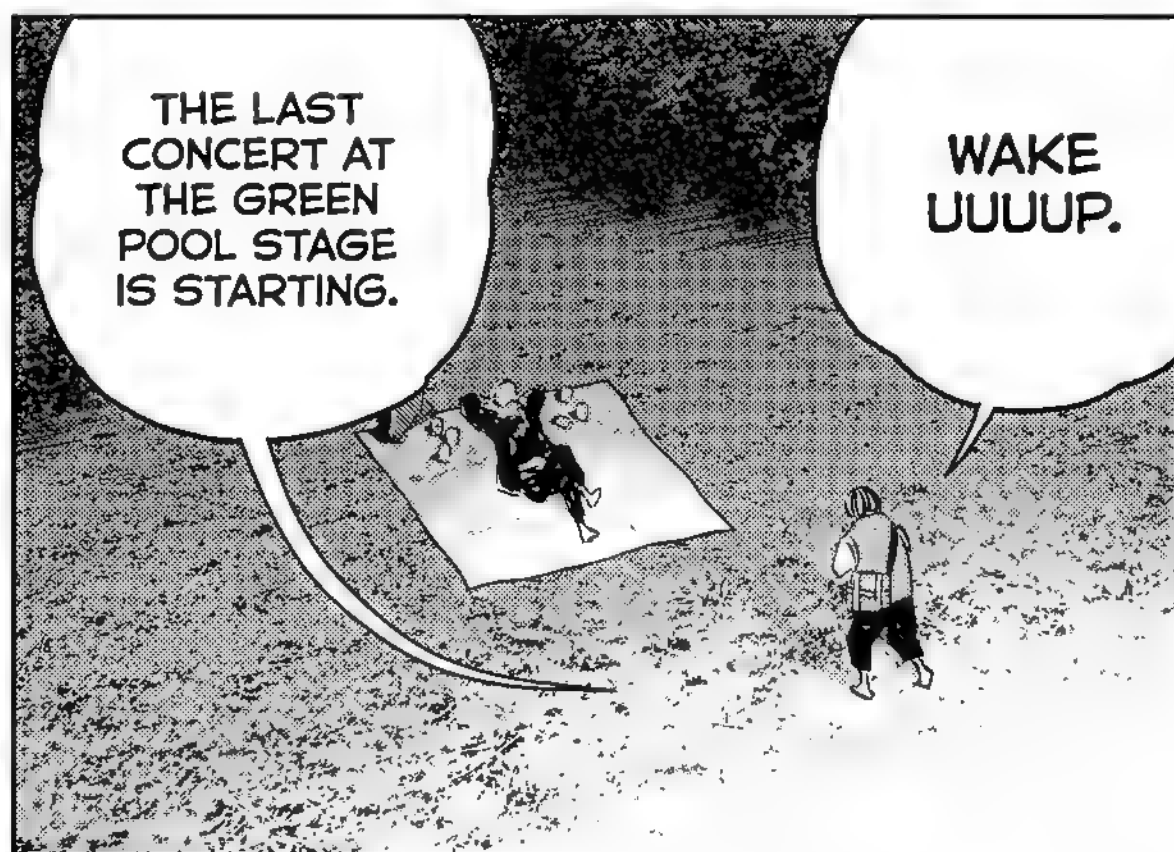
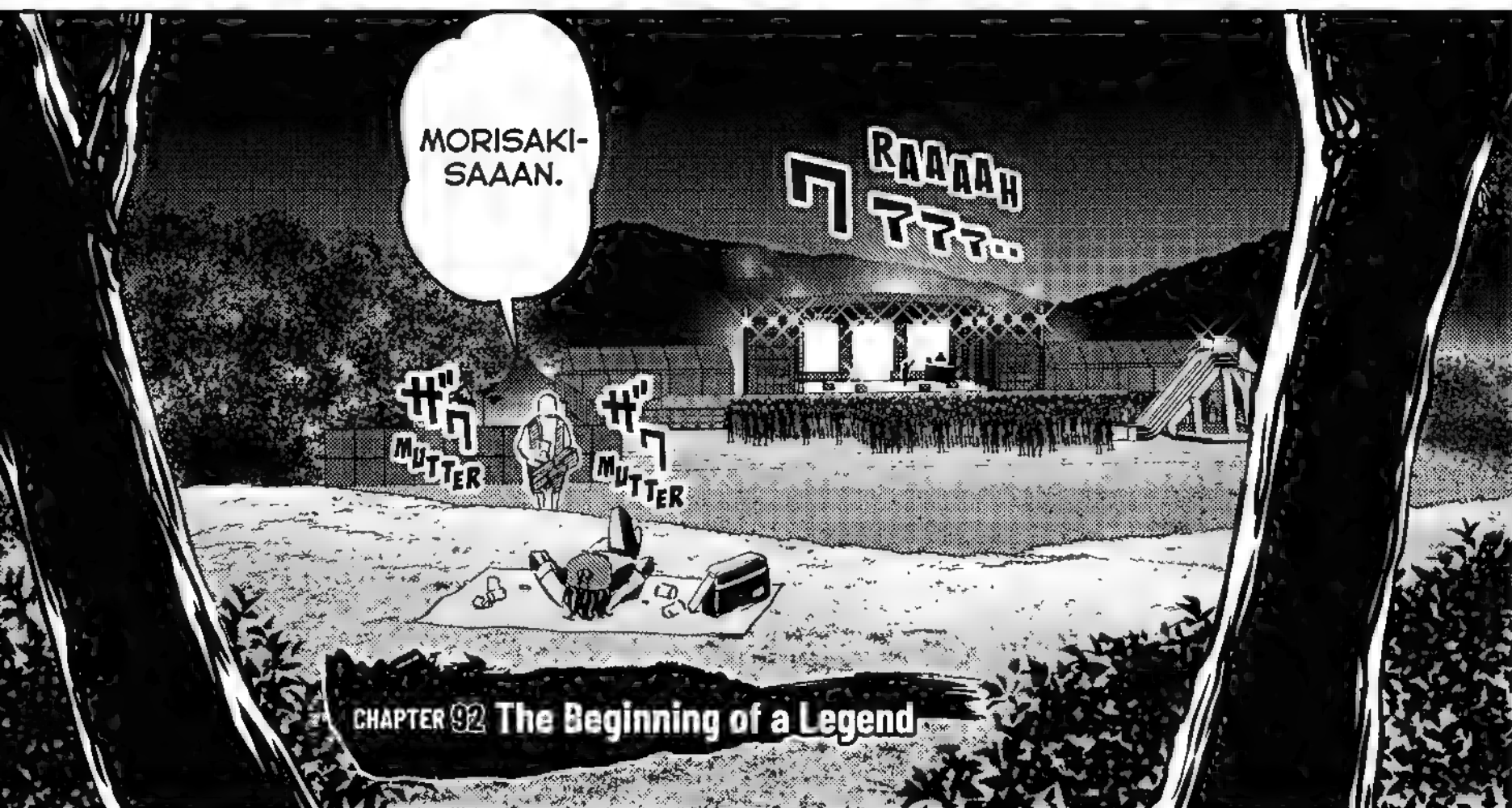
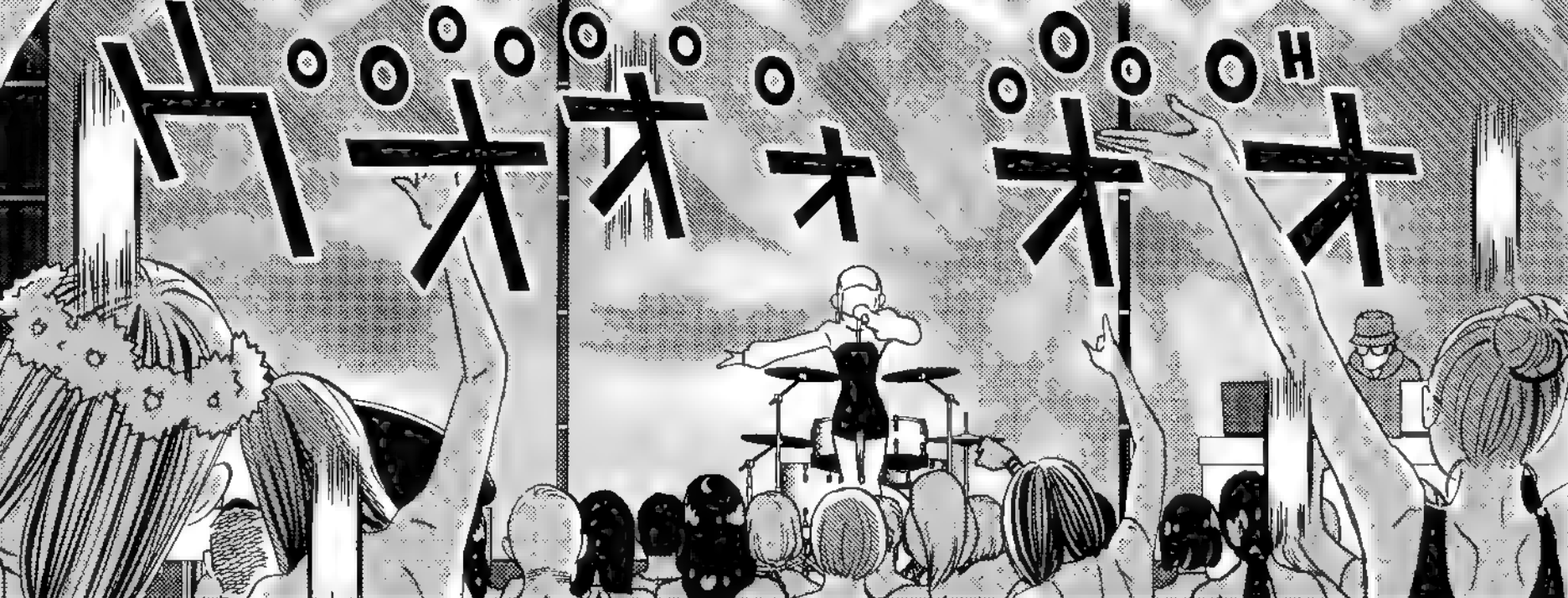
...GLASSES BOY,  
LADY OSHIKARU,  
AND LADY SHINO!

...WILL  
REQUIRE  
EVERYONE'S  
HELP TO  
ACCOMPLISH,  
MY VALIANT  
ALLIES...

CHAPTER 90 END



42  
604  
1009  
111121







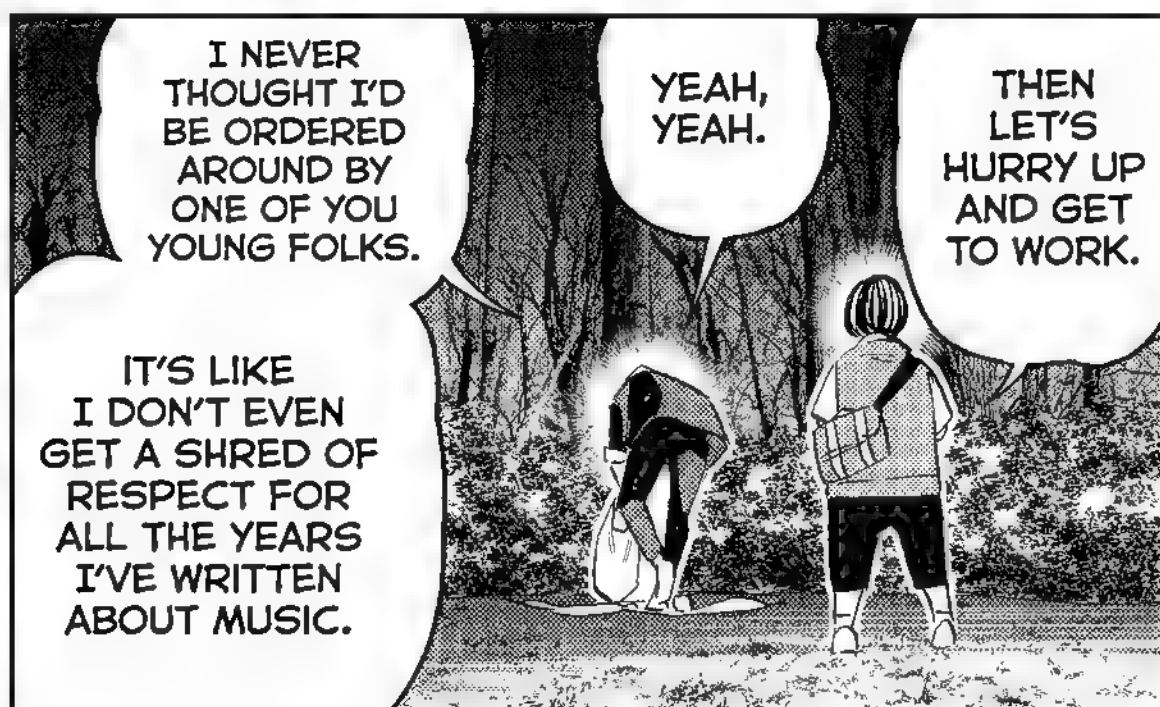
I CAN  
HEAR YOU  
JUST FINE.



SHUT  
UP...



LET'S  
SEE...WHO  
WAS IT?  
EIKO?



I NEVER  
THOUGHT I'D  
BE ORDERED  
AROUND BY  
ONE OF YOU  
YOUNG FOLKS.

IT'S LIKE  
I DON'T EVEN  
GET A SHRED OF  
RESPECT FOR  
ALL THE YEARS  
I'VE WRITTEN  
ABOUT MUSIC.

YEAH,  
YEAH.

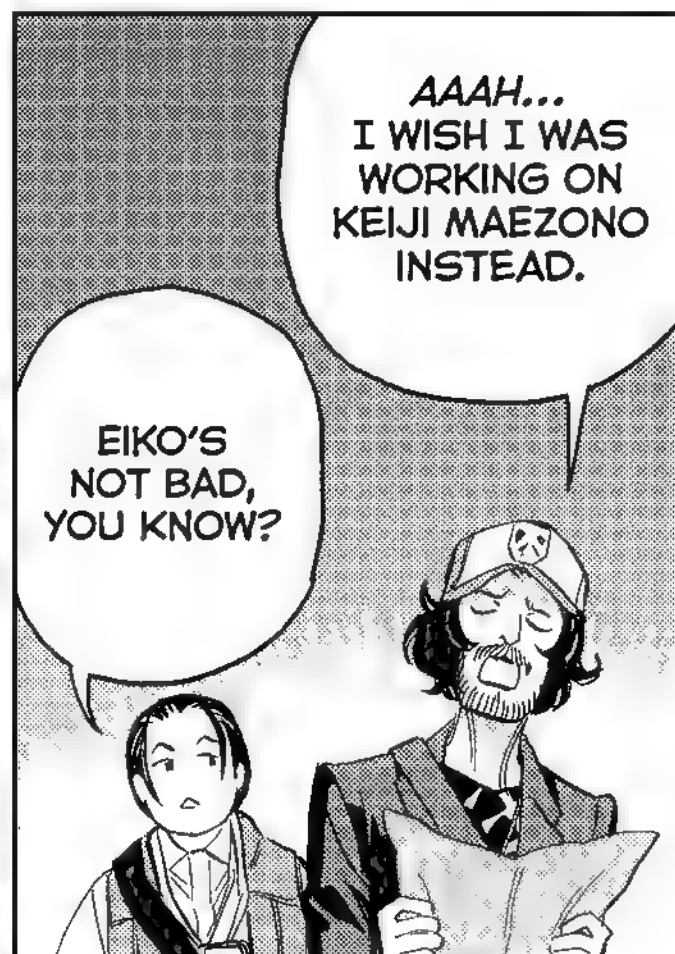
THEN  
LET'S  
HURRY UP  
AND GET  
TO WORK.



HE WRITES HIS  
OWN LYRICS, HIS OWN  
MUSIC, AND HE CAN  
DANCE. PLUS, HE'S  
GOT THE LOOKS!  
WITH MANNERS AND  
MONEY, TO BOOT.

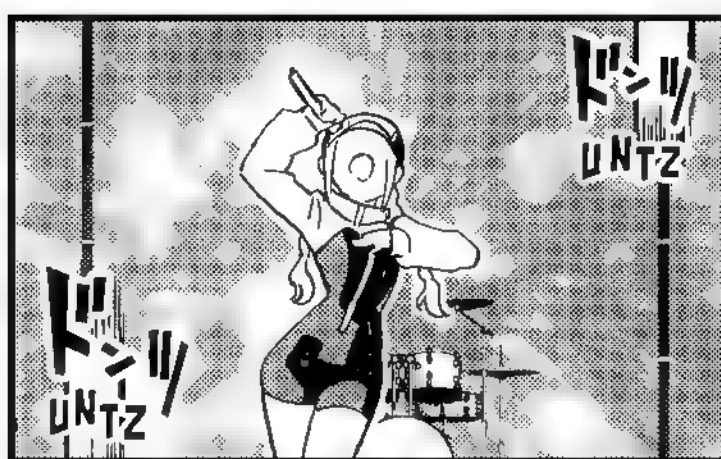
KEIJI  
MAEZONO...  
HE'S GONNA  
BE BIG ONE  
DAY.

HE'S  
WHAT YOU'D  
CALL A "MR.  
PERFECT."



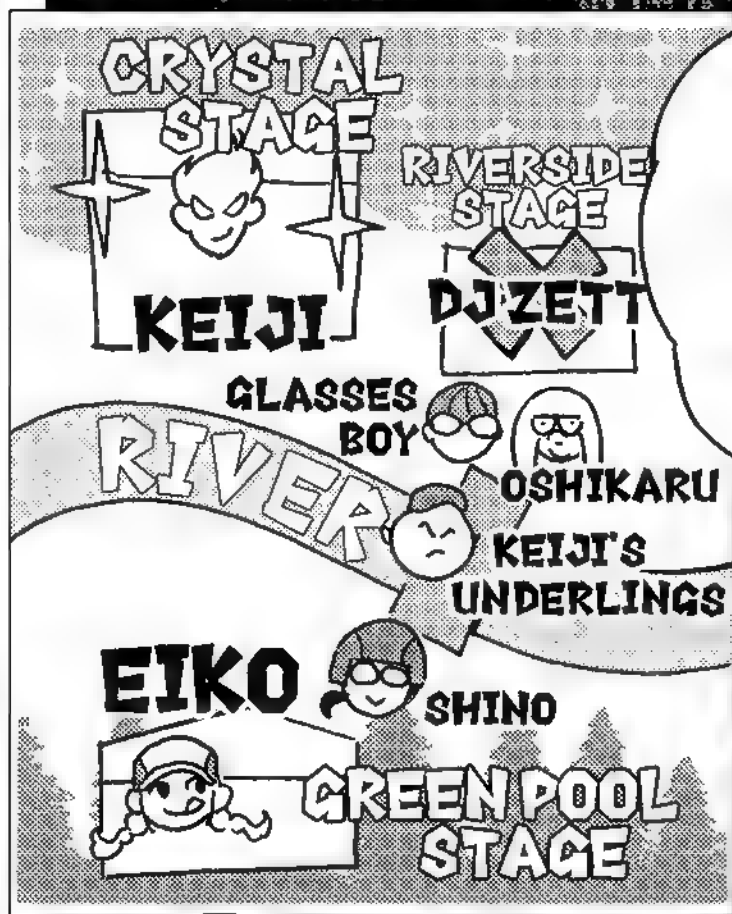
AAAH...  
I WISH I WAS  
WORKING ON  
KEIJI MAEZONO  
INSTEAD.

EIKO'S  
NOT BAD,  
YOU KNOW?









DO YOU  
REALLY  
NEED TO  
INSPECT  
THIS  
BRIDGE?

NOW  
EXPLAIN  
YOUR-  
SELVES.

LOOK,  
YOU JUST  
WALKED DOWN  
THE BRIDGE!  
SO WHAT'S THE  
PROBLEM WITH  
US CROSSING  
IT?!



I, THE  
HUMBLE SHINO  
SAKURAI, WILL  
RISE TO THE  
CHALLENGE  
FOR MY  
BELOVED  
STAR!

EVEN IF  
IT MEANS  
THAT I NEED  
TO GET  
A LITTLE  
ROUGH...

GET  
IT?

LET US  
THROUGH!

WE WANNA  
GO SEE  
EIKO'S  
CONCERT!





WE ALREADY  
KNOW THAT *THAT*  
MAN RIGHT THERE  
IS PART OF KEIJI  
MAEZONO'S  
STAFF.

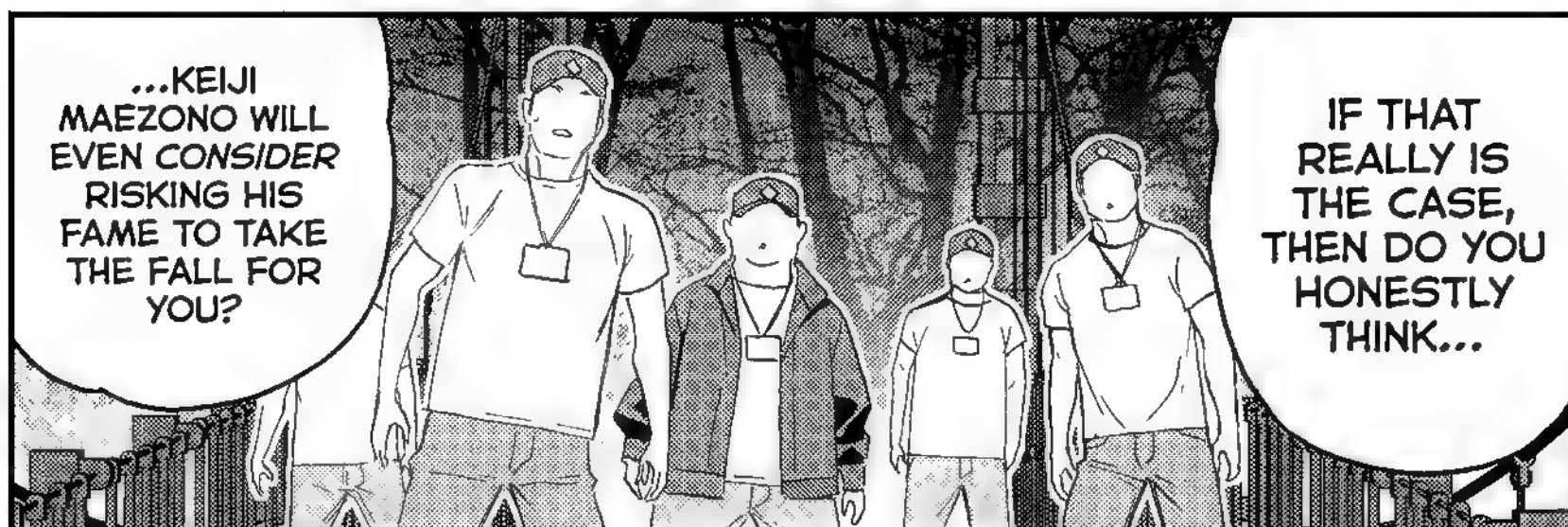
YOU  
PEOPLE  
AREN'T WITH  
SUMMER  
SONIA...

YOU'VE BEEN  
HIRED BY KEIJI  
MAEZONO.



...WHAT YOU  
PEOPLE ARE  
DOING MAY BE  
CONSIDERED  
FORCIBLE  
OBSTRUCTION  
OF BUSINESS.  
IT'S ILLEGAL.

FROM WHAT  
I LEARNED  
WHEN I WAS  
WORKING AT  
A LAW FIRM...



...KEIJI  
MAEZONO WILL  
EVEN CONSIDER  
RISKING HIS  
FAME TO TAKE  
THE FALL FOR  
YOU?

IF THAT  
REALLY IS  
THE CASE,  
THEN DO YOU  
HONESTLY  
THINK...



MAYBE  
WE  
SHOULD  
STOP...

THIS  
IS BAD...  
ARE WE IN  
TROUBLE?

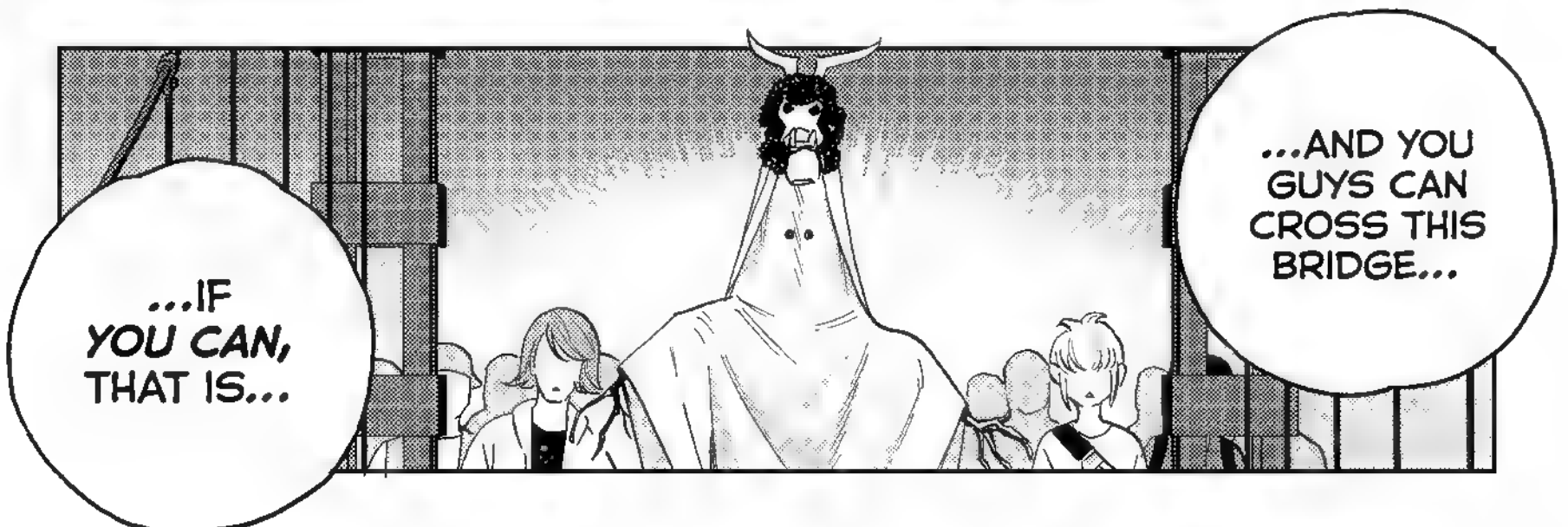


...WOULD  
THAT  
MAKE US  
CRIMINALS?

IF HE  
SAYS THAT  
HE HAD NO  
IDEA THIS  
WAS HAP-  
PENING...



**QUIT  
JABBERING  
BACK THERE,  
YA SPINELESS  
WIMPS!!**











...AFTER TONIGHT'S  
CONCERT?!

ARE YOU GOING TO  
GET EVEN BIGGER...?



...NO, EVEN IF IT  
JUST MEANS HER  
CURRENT GUESTS  
DOUBLE, THEN!!

IF ONLY WE'VE  
GOT FIVE  
THOUSAND...

...THEN IT  
MAKES KEIJI  
EVEN MORE  
DESPICABLE  
FOR TRYING  
TO STEAL HER  
AUDIENCE...

SHIT...  
IF THAT'S  
THE CASE...



CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

HM?



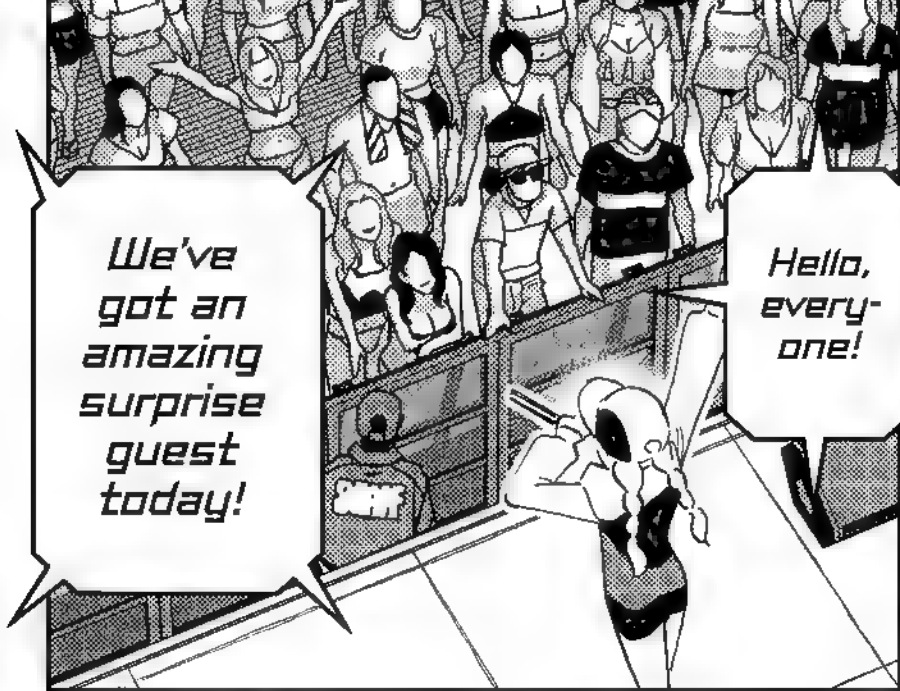
MUTTER

MUTTER









*We've got an amazing surprise guest today!*

*Hello, everyone!*



HUH?



YEAH?

OKAY... OKAY.



*...and also collabed with me on the song, "Star Trip"...*



LEAP



TMP

TMP



*This producer was part of the three-major-label collaboration group that made the song, "Orion from Four Years Ago"...*



GRAAAWR!

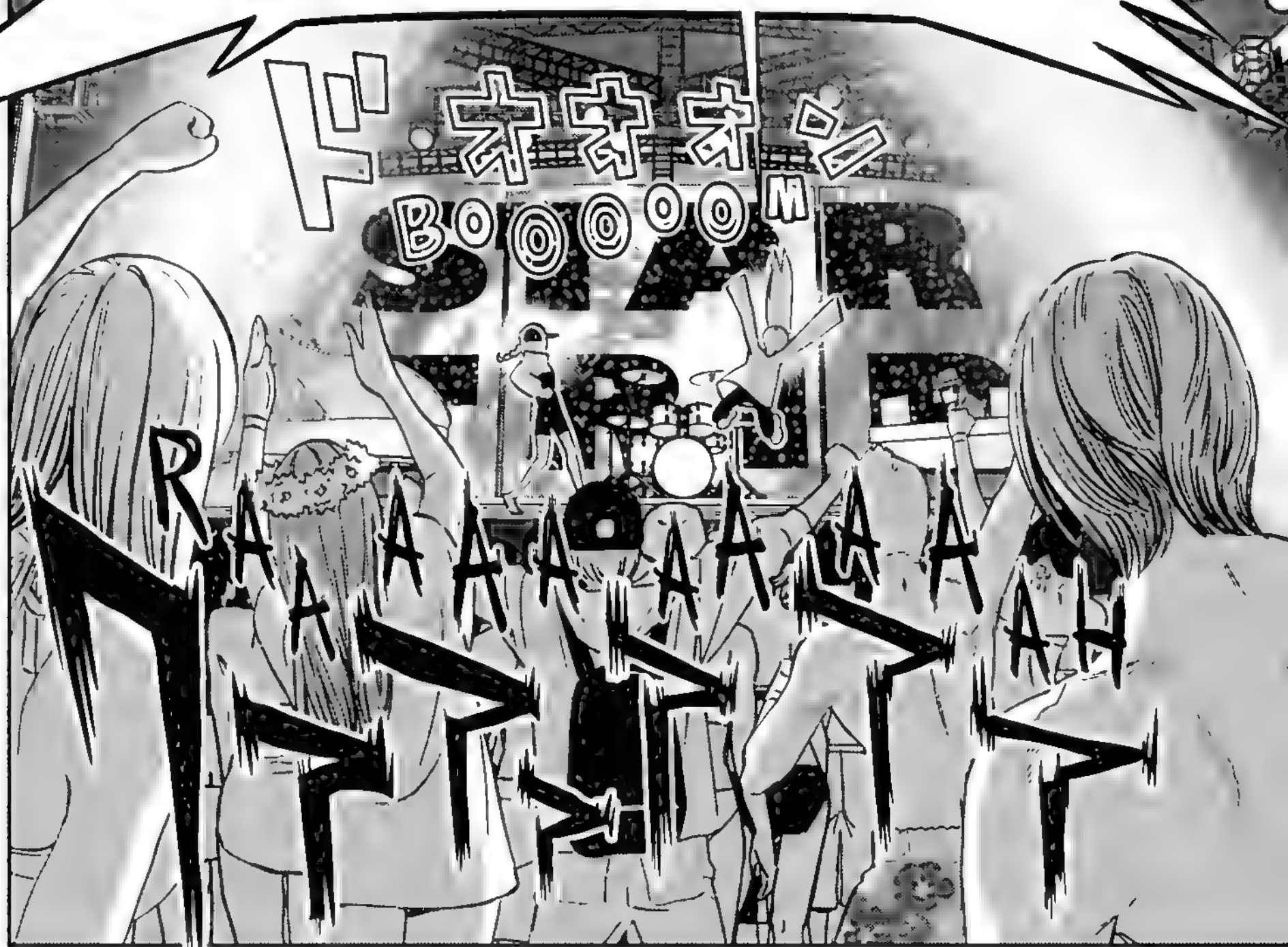
*...It's Oshikaruuu!!*

RAAAAH





WITH OUR  
**BIG BANG!!**



WHO  
THE HELL  
WROTE THIS?!  
SHE USED  
BRIBES TO  
GET THE 100  
THOUSAND  
LIKES?!

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER?  
YOU'RE  
SUDDENLY  
ALL  
RARING  
TO  
WORK...

UPLOAD  
THE PHOTOS  
TO OUR JOINT  
SERVER RIGHT  
AWAY. I NEED  
THEM NOW.

RAAH

TAK  
TAK  
TAK  
TAK  
TAK

...TO  
AS MANY  
PEOPLE  
AS I CAN!

I NEED  
TO HURRY...  
I NEED TO  
SPREAD  
THIS...

...AT THE  
GREEN POOL  
STAGE...

SUMMER  
SONIA,  
2020...

ON THE  
FIRST  
DAY...

...EIKO...

...WILL  
BE THE TRUE  
BEGINNING OF  
A LEGEND!

RIGHT HERE,  
TONIGHT...

CHAPTER 92 END

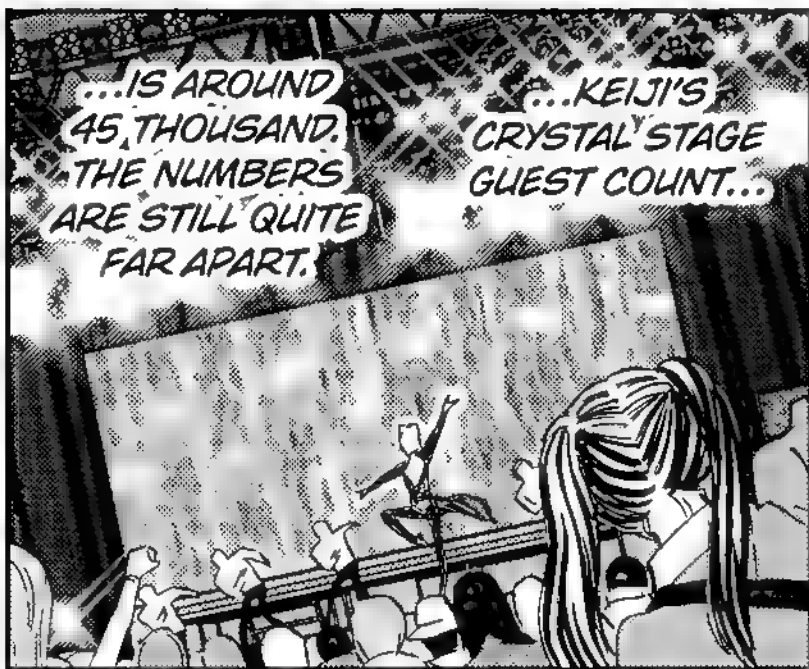


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1009

CHAPTER 93 The Truth Behind The Altar







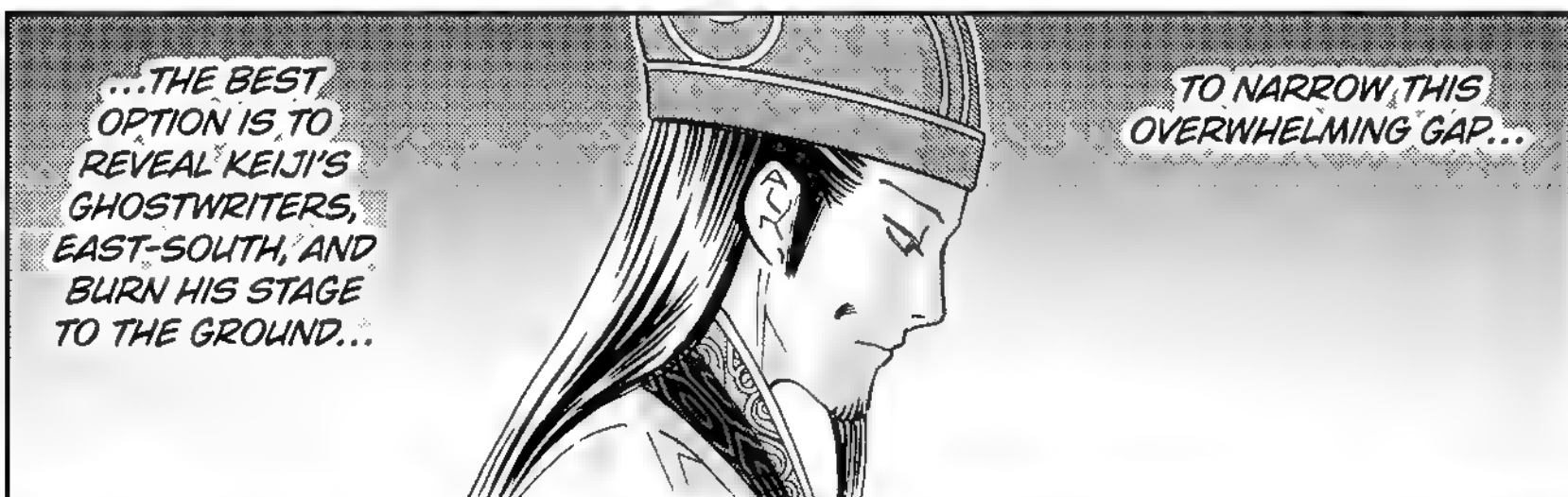
...IS AROUND  
45, THOUSAND.  
THE NUMBERS  
ARE STILL QUITE  
FAR APART.

...KEIJI'S  
CRYSTAL STAGE  
GUEST COUNT...



HOWEVER...

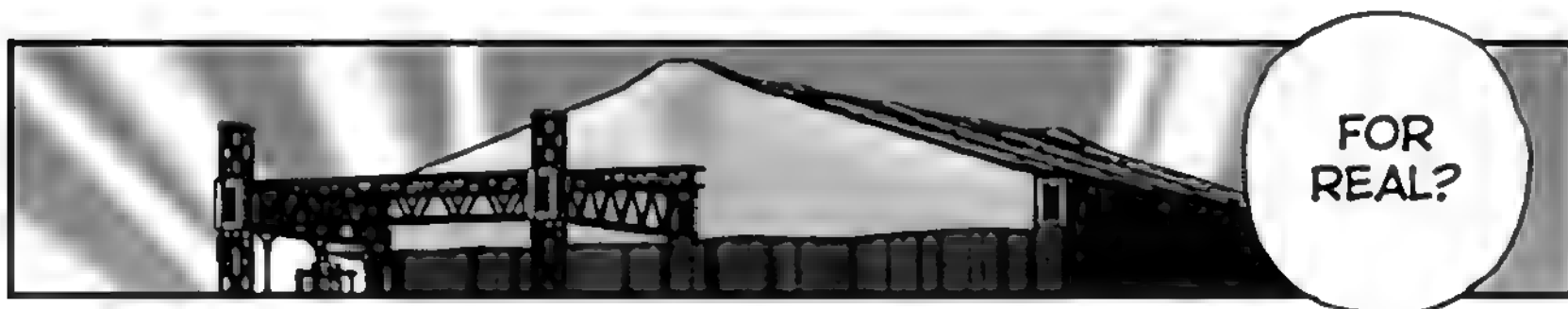
GLASSES BOY  
AND LADY SHINO  
HAVE DONE WELL.



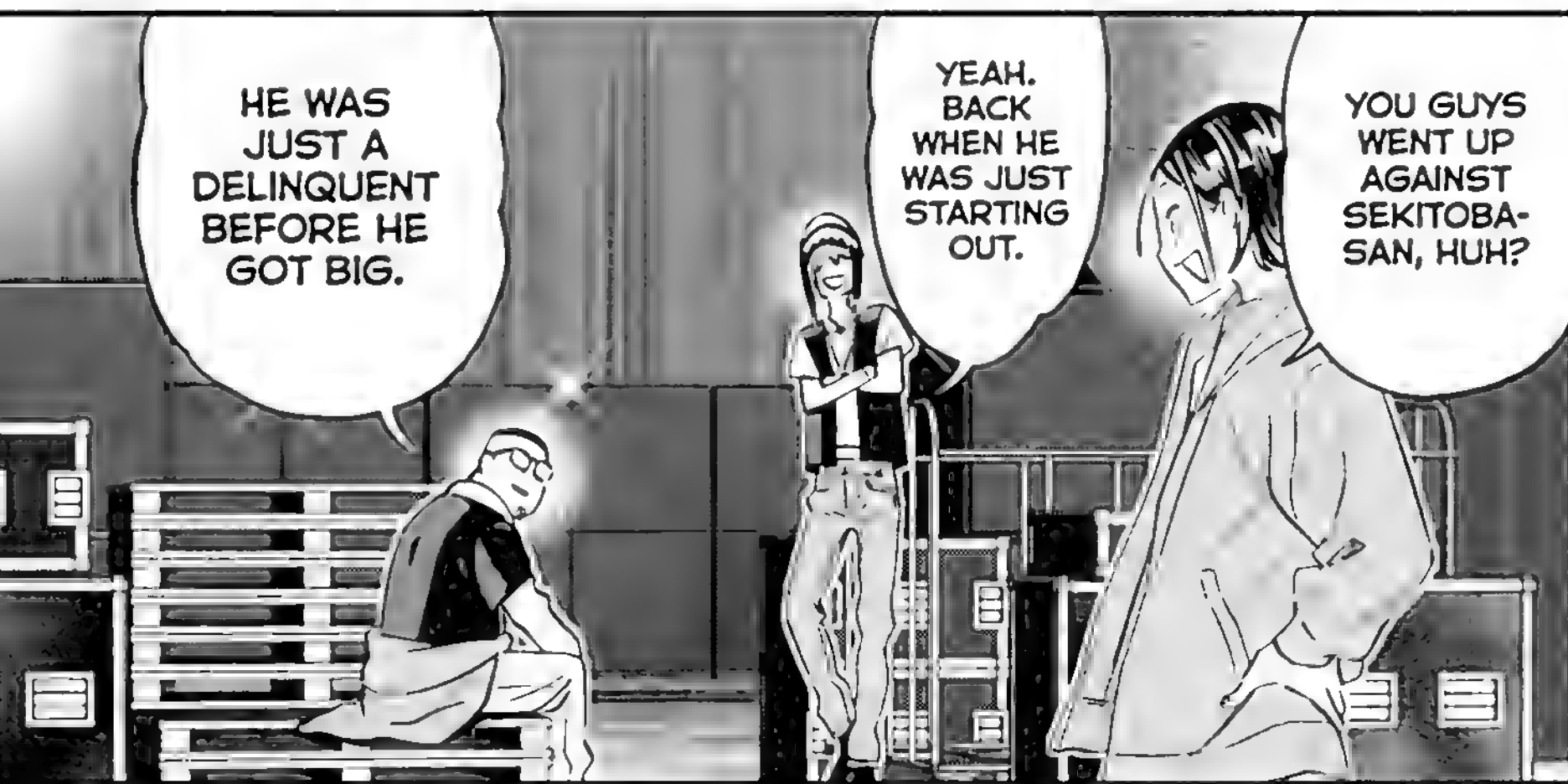
...THE BEST  
OPTION IS TO  
REVEAL KEIJI'S  
GHOSTWRITERS,  
EAST-SOUTH, AND  
BURN HIS STAGE  
TO THE GROUND...

TO NARROW THIS  
OVERWHELMING GAP...





FOR  
REAL?



HE WAS  
JUST A  
DELINQUENT  
BEFORE HE  
GOT BIG.

YEAH.  
BACK  
WHEN HE  
WAS JUST  
STARTING  
OUT.

YOU GUYS  
WENT UP  
AGAINST  
SEKITOBA-  
SAN, HUH?



ONIII-  
CHAAAN!!





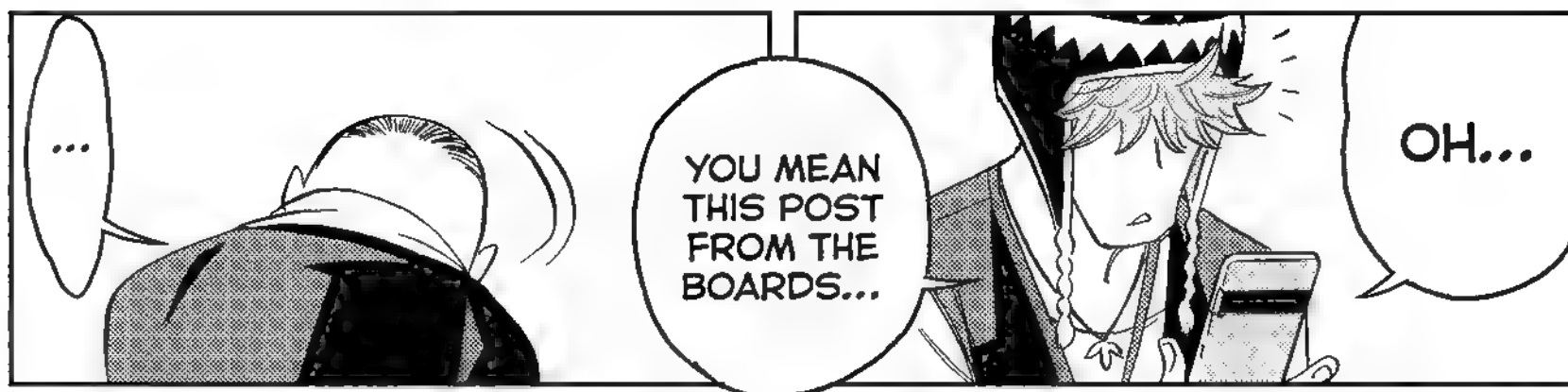
MIREI?

WHAT'RE  
YOU STILL  
DOING  
HERE?



SHEESH,  
WHY DIDN'T  
YOU TELL  
ME?!

AREN'T YOU  
GOING ON  
STAGE FOR  
A SECRET  
CONCERT TO  
REVIVE YOUR  
BAND?



...  
YOU MEAN  
THIS POST  
FROM THE  
BOARDS...

OH...



NOOOO!

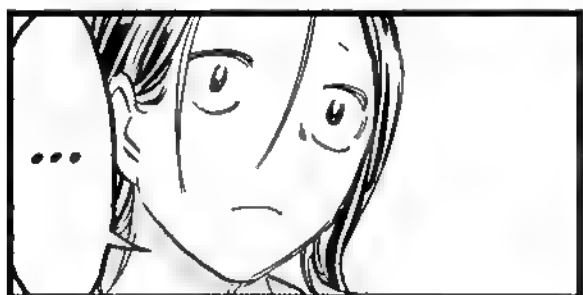
WHAT  
?!

IT'S  
ALL A  
LIE.



WE'RE  
STILL  
WORKING  
FOR  
KEIJI...

ANYWAY...  
WE CAN'T  
RIGHT  
NOW.



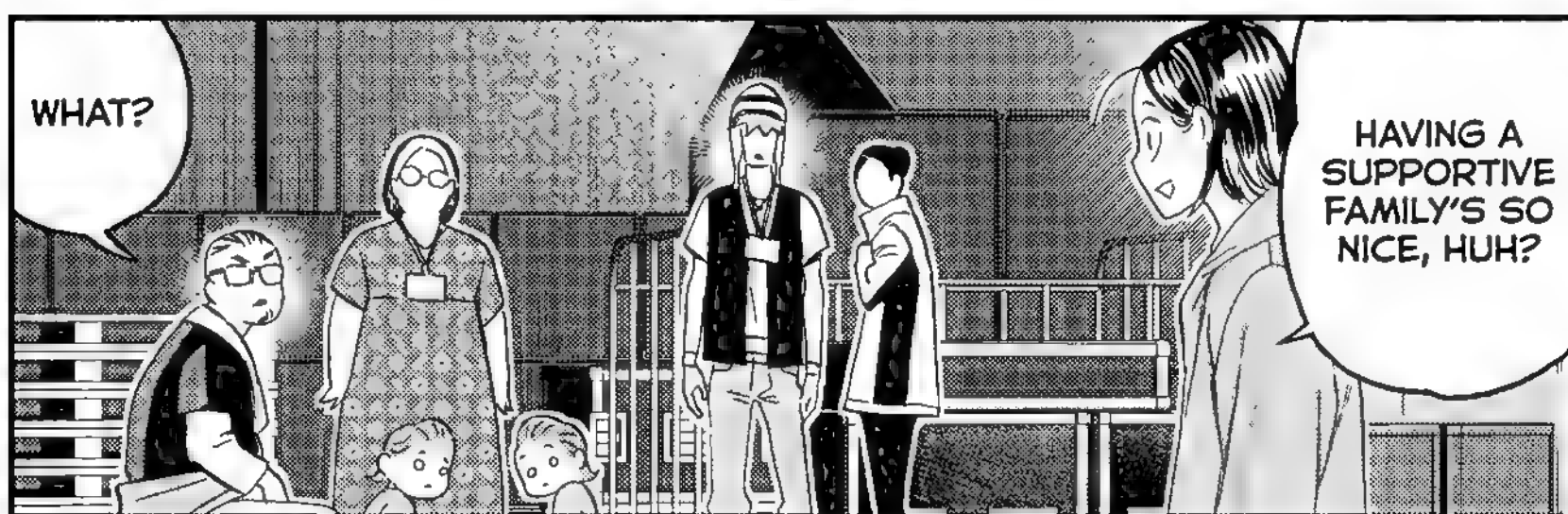
...



REVIVE!  
REVIVE!

THAT'S  
TOO BIG A  
DECISION  
TO MAKE  
OFFHAND!

WHO  
CARES?  
SINCE  
PEOPLE ARE  
TALKING  
ABOUT IT,  
WHY DON'T  
YOU GO UP  
THERE AND  
ACTUALLY  
DO IT?



WHAT?

HAVING A  
SUPPORTIVE  
FAMILY'S SO  
NICE, HUH?

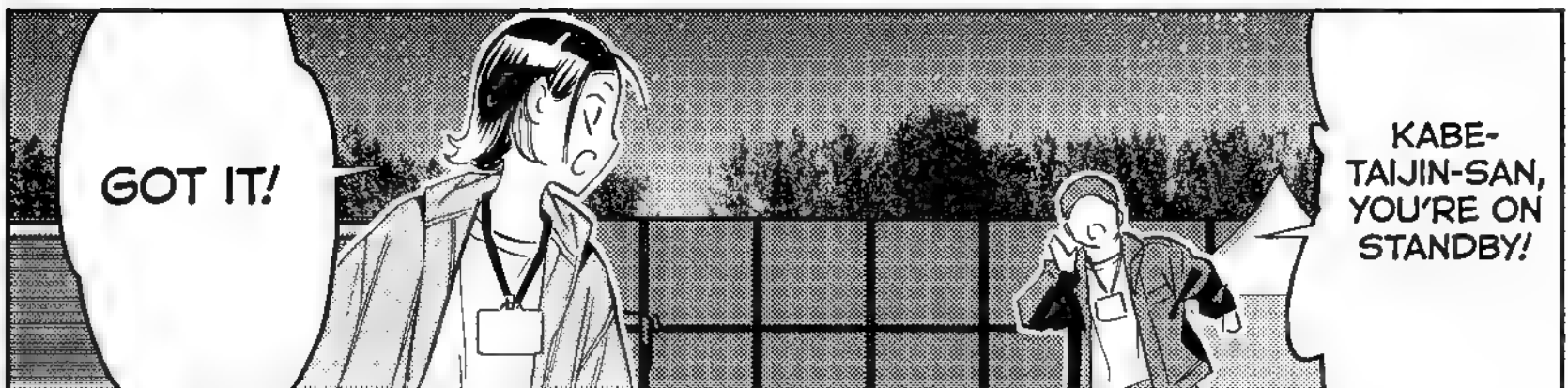
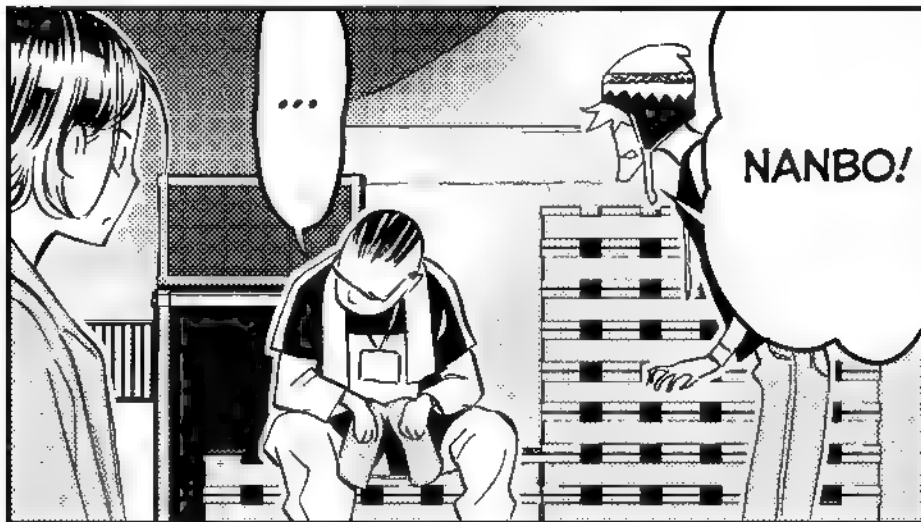
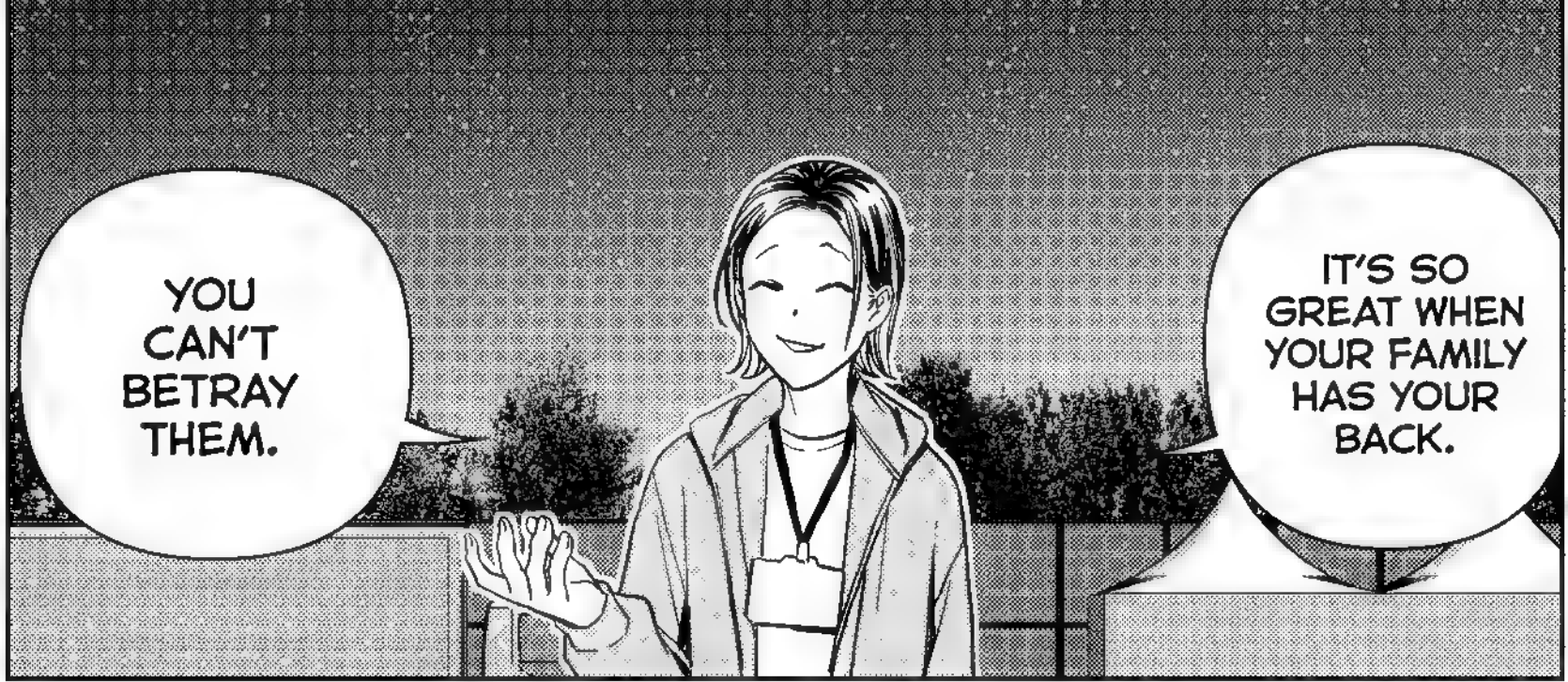


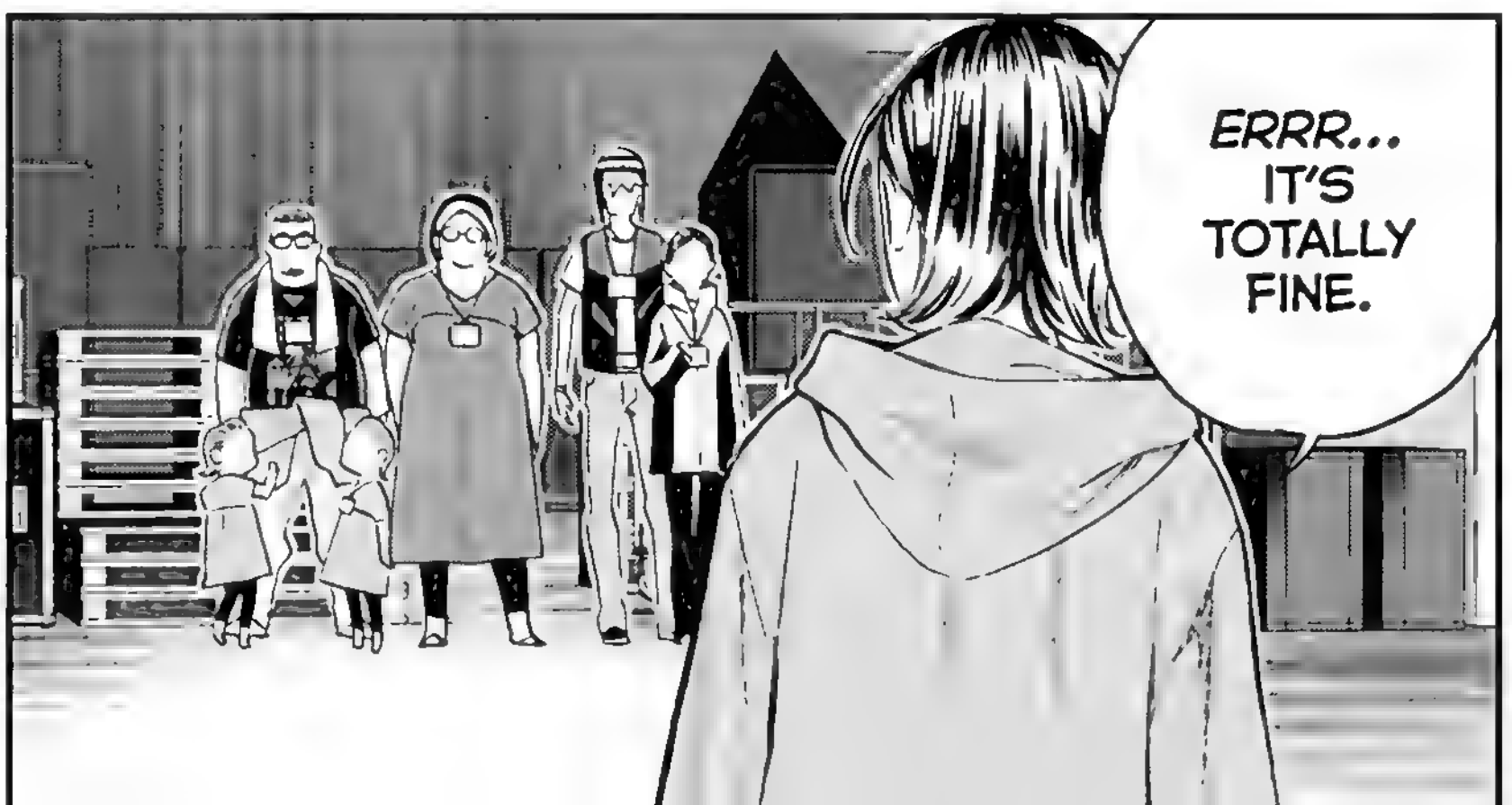
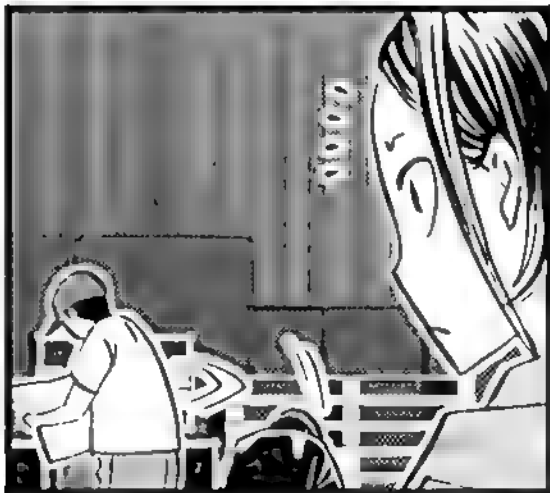
BUT NOW,  
THEY'RE MORE  
THAN WILLING  
TO SUPPORT ANY-  
THING I WANNA  
DO WITH MY LIFE.



ERR,  
I MEAN...  
A LONG TIME  
AGO, MY  
FAMILY TOLD  
ME TO QUIT  
MY RAPPING  
CAREER.





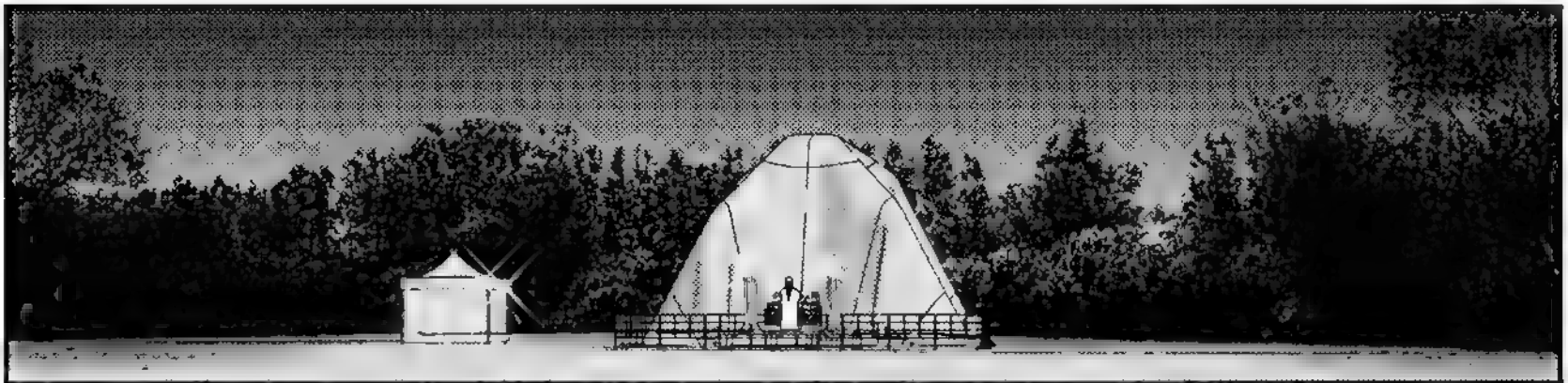






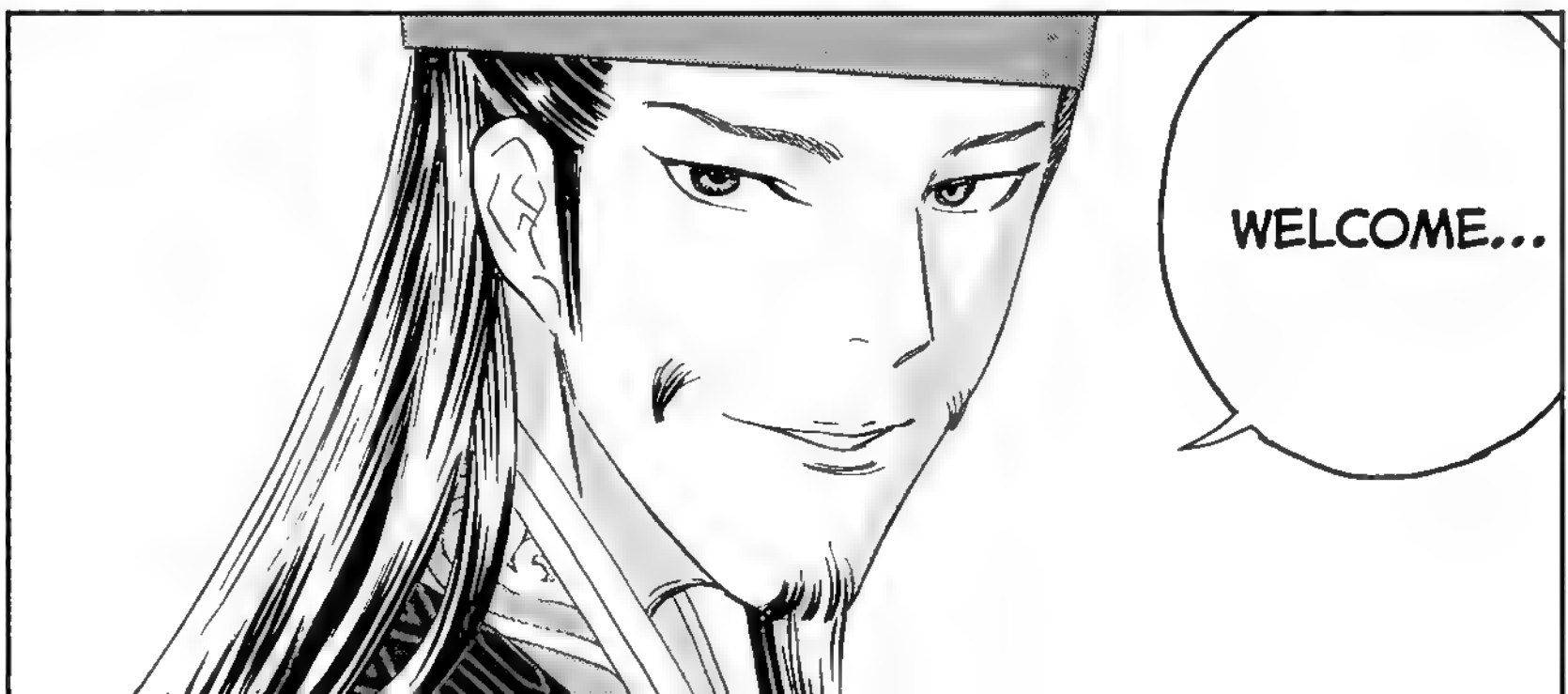
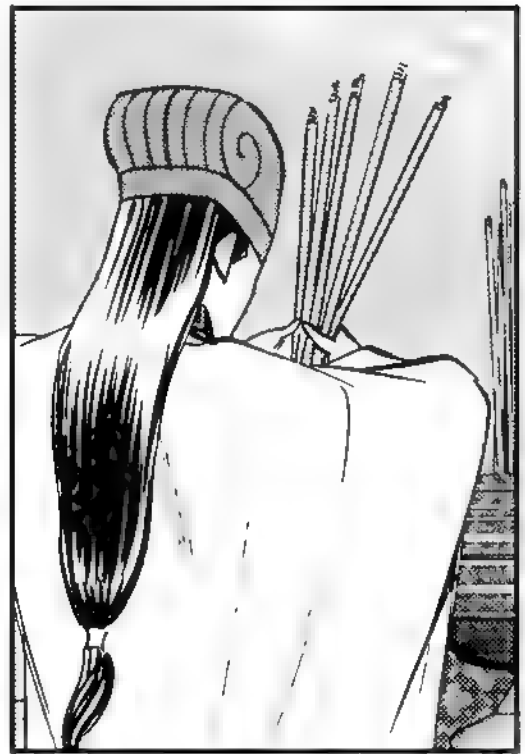
...ONE  
HELL OF  
A TRAITOR,  
AFTER ALL.

I'M...



EIKO'S  
TACTICIAN!

HEEEY.



WELCOME...

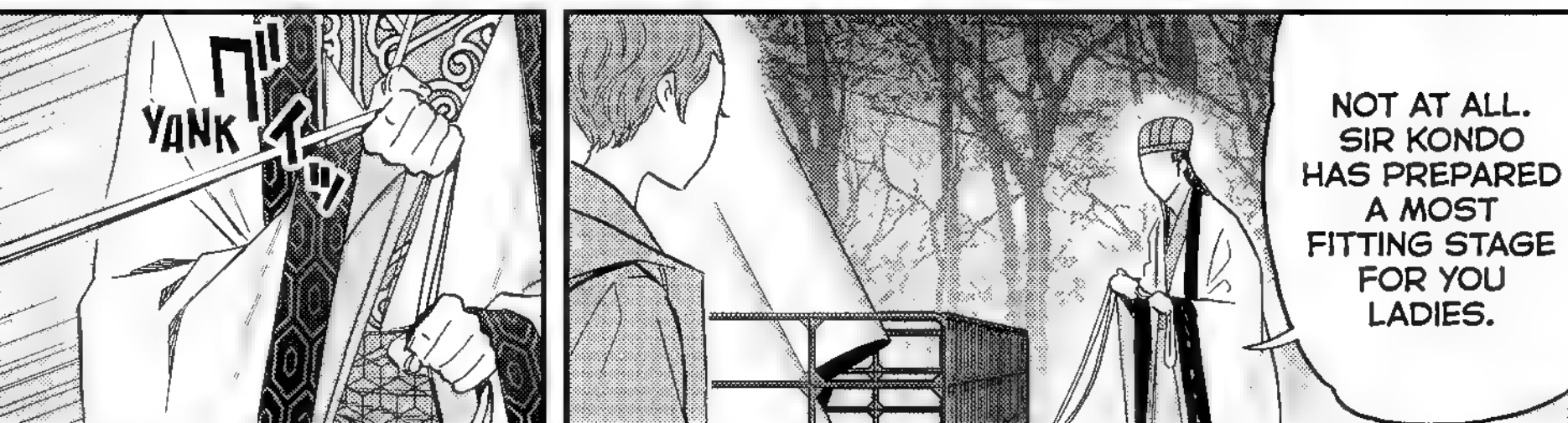


**...LADIES  
OF AZALEA!**



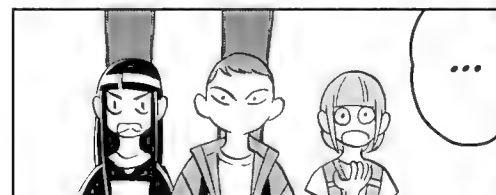
**...ARE  
WE SUPPOSED  
TO PUT ON OUR  
SHOW HERE IN  
THE MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE?**

**SO...**



**NOT AT ALL.  
SIR KONDO  
HAS PREPARED  
A MOST  
FITTING STAGE  
FOR YOU  
LADIES.**







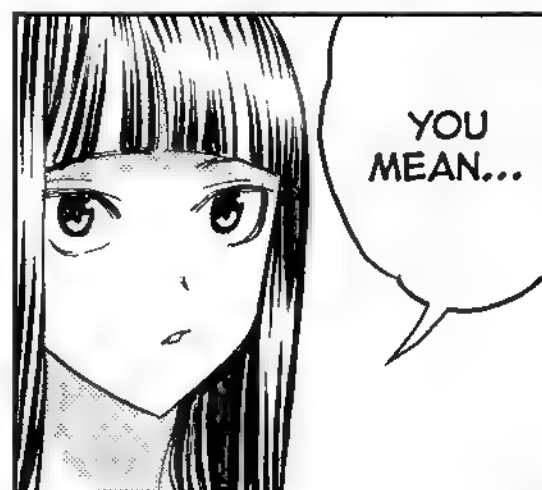
...EAST-SOUTH IS CURRENTLY BOUND BY UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY ARE UNABLE TO CREATE MUSIC FOR THEMSELVES.

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THE RUMORS, BUT...

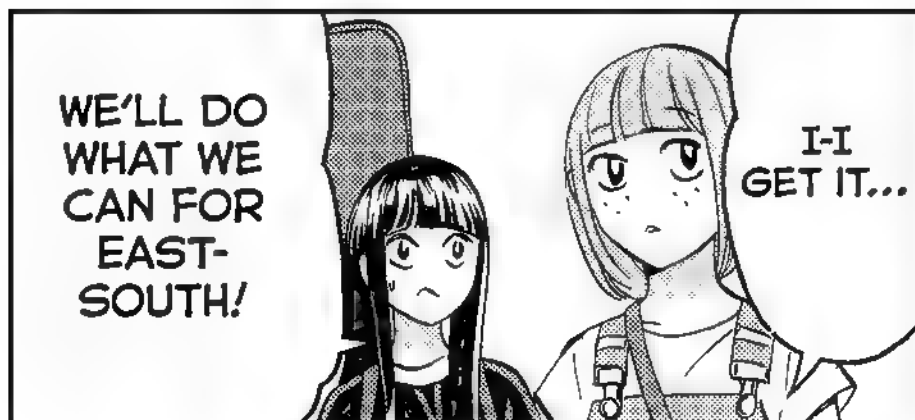


YOU WERE IN A SIMILAR SITUATION ONCE.

YES.



YOU MEAN...



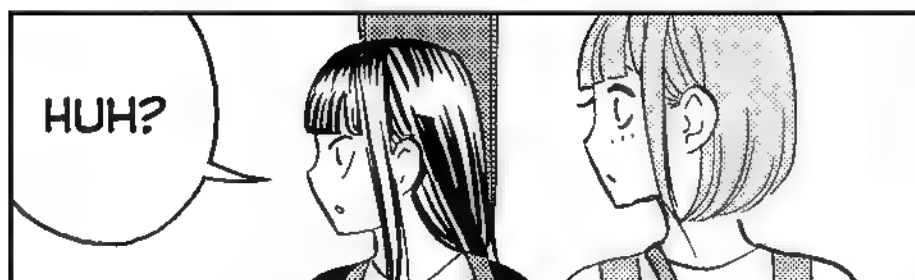
WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN FOR EAST-SOUTH!

I-I GET IT...



THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...

...



HUH?

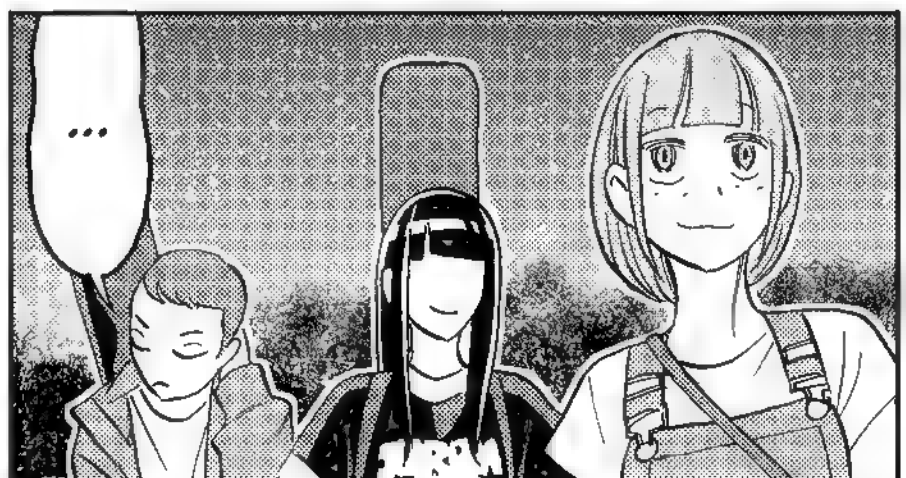
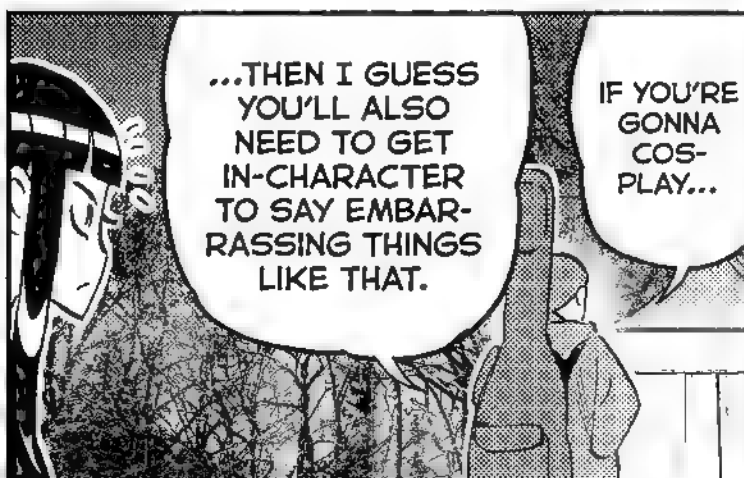
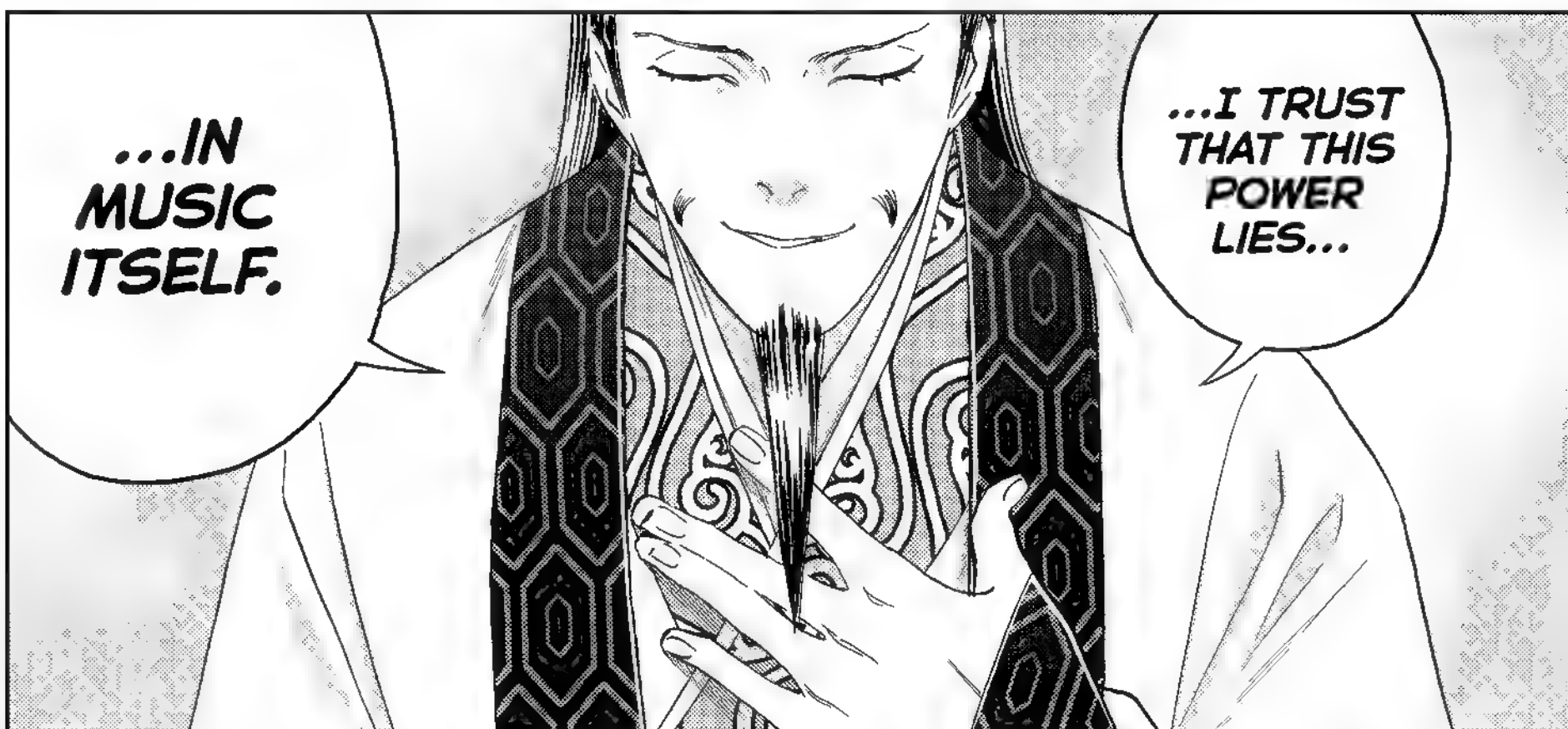


TO INCITE THE DETERMINATION TO BREAK FREE FROM THEIR SHACKLES AND REVIVE...

...I BELIEVE WE WILL NEED YOUR PERFORMANCE ON STAGE.











HA HA  
HA HA!  
PRETEND-  
ING TO  
BE HIGH  
SCHOOL  
GIRLS IS  
REALLY  
TOO  
MUCH!!

GAH HA  
HA HA  
HA HA



GAAAH!  
THIS IS  
JUST COS-  
PLAY! NO  
MATTER  
HOW YOU  
SLICE IT!!



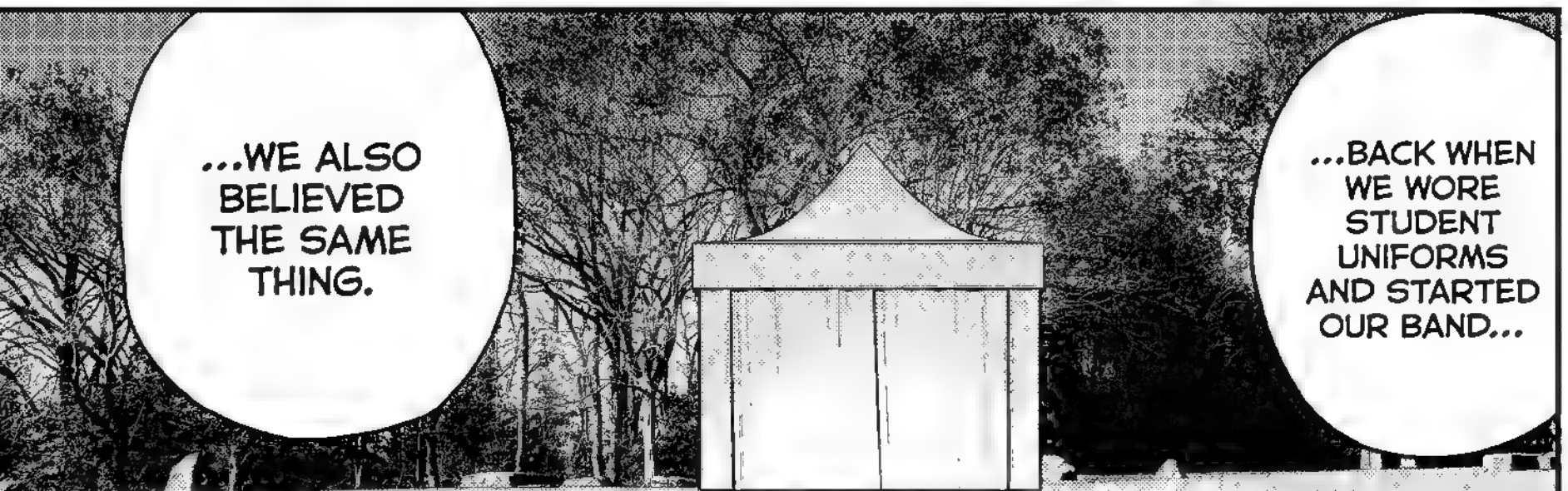
BUT...

HEH  
HEH  
HEH.



ARE  
YOU  
SERI-  
OUS  
?!

HERE! YOU  
TWO GOTTA  
JOIN ME! IT'S  
A FESTIVAL,  
RIGHT? LET'S  
EMBARRASS  
OURSELVES  
TOGETHER!



...WE ALSO  
BELIEVED  
THE SAME  
THING.

...BACK WHEN  
WE WORE  
STUDENT  
UNIFORMS  
AND STARTED  
OUR BAND...

...THE  
TRUE  
POWER  
OF  
MUSIC!

WE'LL  
SHOW  
THE  
WORLD...

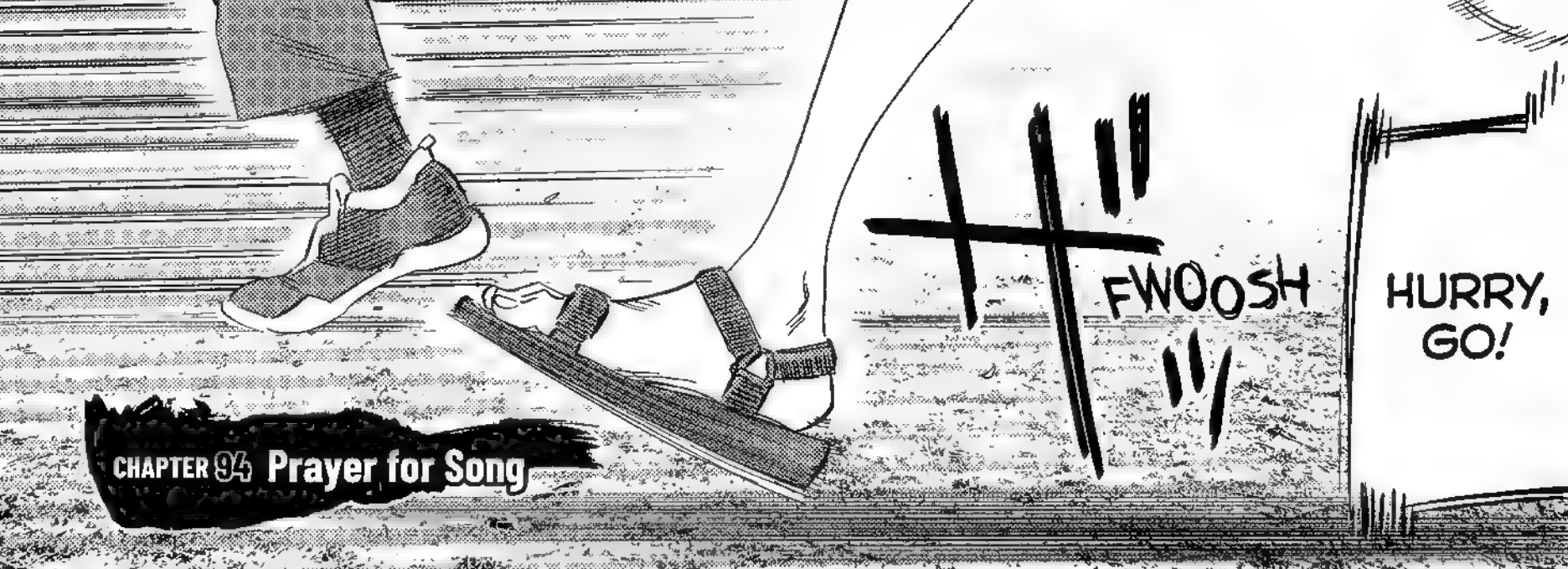
ALL RIGHT!  
NOW LET'S  
PROVE IT!

CHAPTER 99 END





42  
604  
1009  
111121

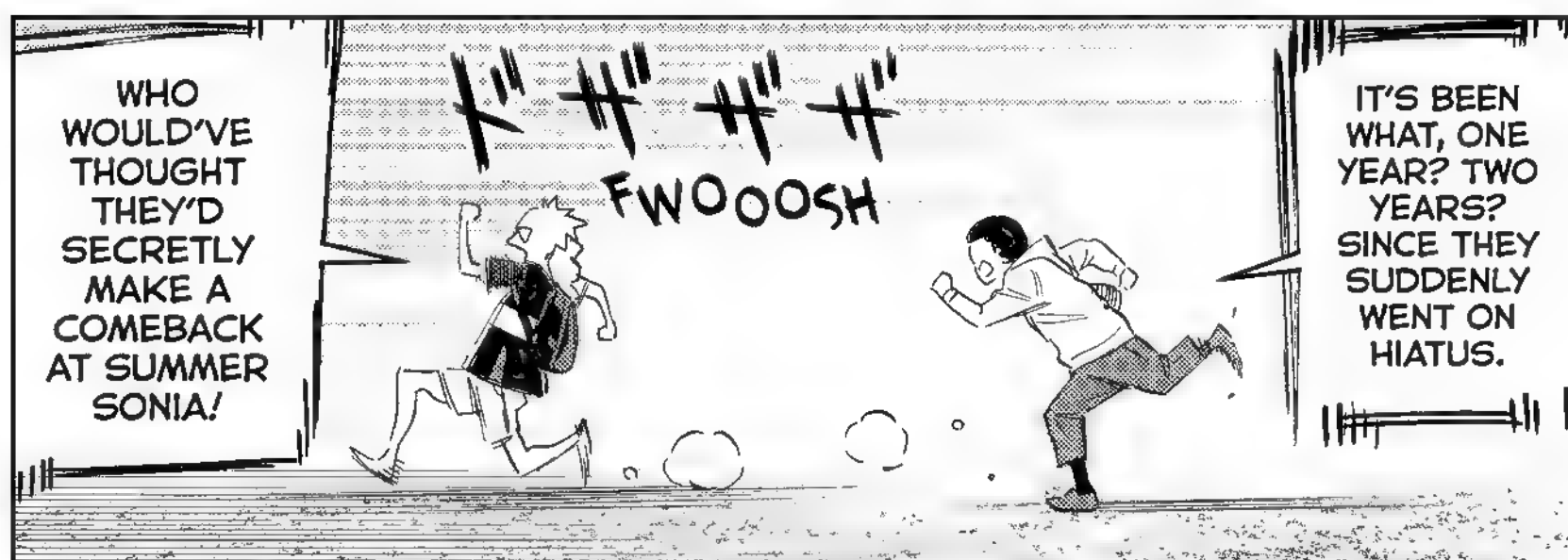


CHAPTER 94 Prayer for Song



...THEN  
EAST-  
SOUTH'S  
REVIVAL  
CONCERT'S  
ABOUT TO  
START!

IF THE  
OFFICIAL  
BOARDS  
ARE  
RIGHT...



WHO  
WOULD'VE  
THOUGHT  
THEY'D  
SECRETLY  
MAKE A  
COMEBACK  
AT SUMMER  
SONIA!

IT'S BEEN  
WHAT, ONE  
YEAR? TWO  
YEARS?  
SINCE THEY  
SUDDENLY  
WENT ON  
HIATUS.



HUH...?

HAAH  
HAAH  
HAAH

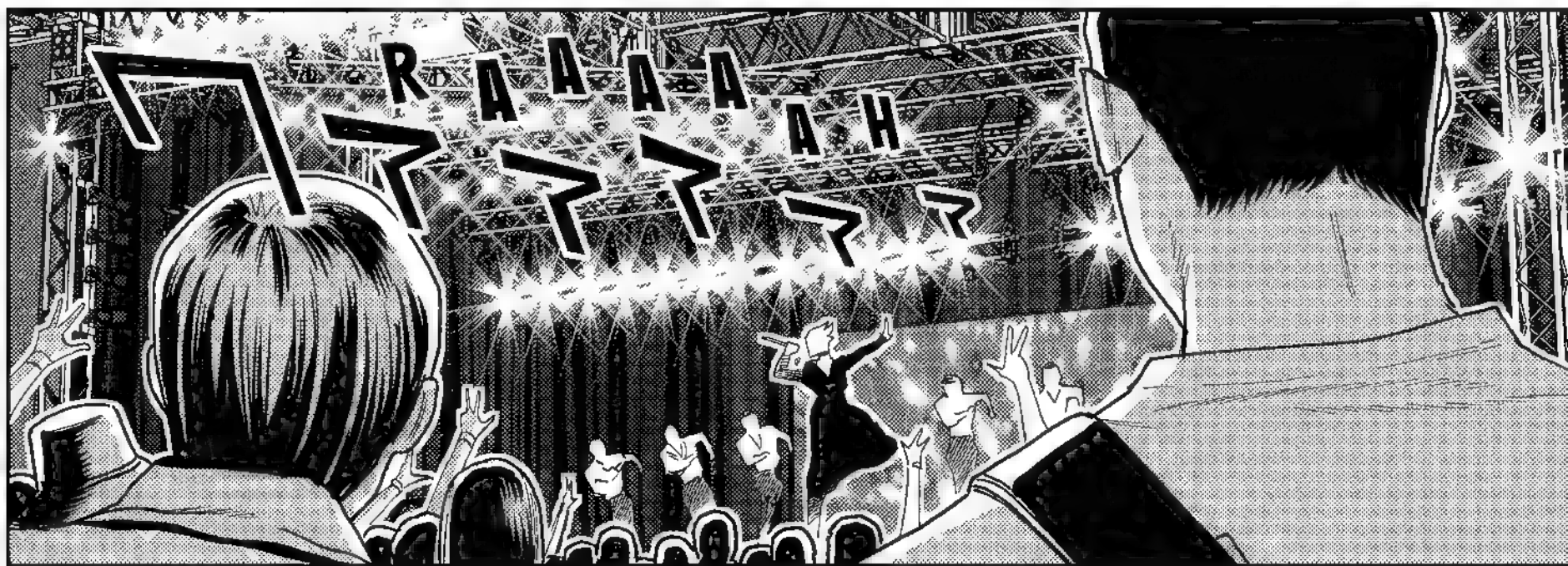
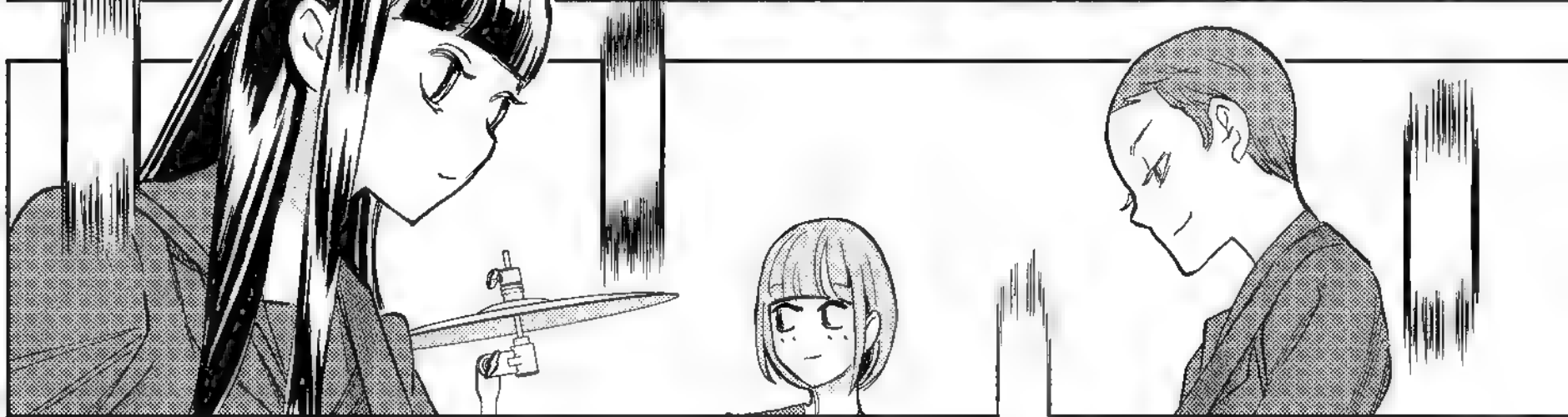
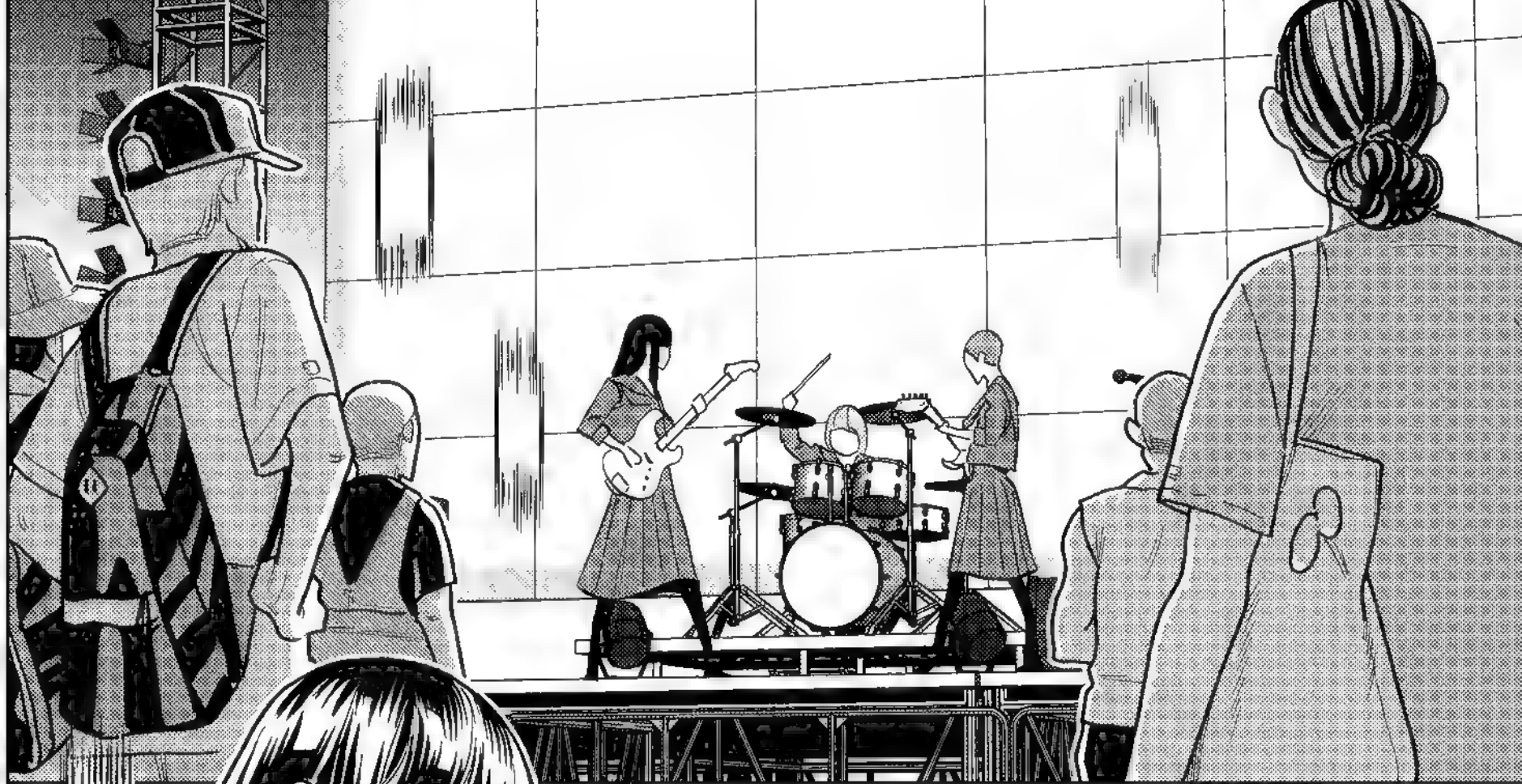


YOU'RE  
KIDDING!!  
DID WE  
MISS IT?!

THAT'S  
IT!

THEY  
ALREADY  
STARTED!



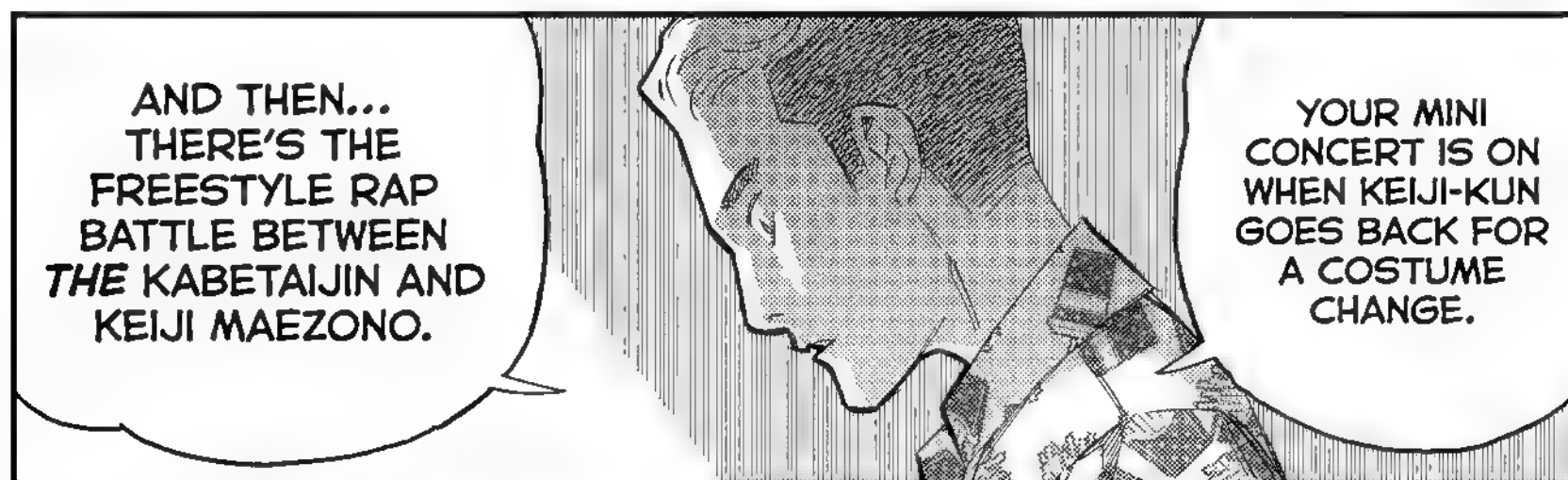






YUP!

KABE,  
YOU  
KNOW THE  
SCRIPT?



AND THEN...  
THERE'S THE  
FREESTYLE RAP  
BATTLE BETWEEN  
THE KABETAJIN AND  
KEIJI MAEZONO.

YOUR MINI  
CONCERT IS ON  
WHEN KEIJI-KUN  
GOES BACK FOR  
A COSTUME  
CHANGE.



AND FINALLY...  
THE BATTLE  
ENDS IN A  
DRAW AND  
YOU TWO  
MAKE UP...

AND BY  
THE SECOND  
ROUND, THOSE  
INSULTS  
TURN INTO  
RESPECTFUL  
PRAISE...

SO FIRST,  
YOU TWO  
WILL THROW  
INSULTS  
AT EACH  
OTHER...

BUT YOU'VE  
BOTH GOT A  
SCRIPT TO GO  
OFF OF, SO IT'S  
NOT *REALLY*  
FREESTYLE...

BEFORE  
WE MOVE  
ON TO THE  
SECOND  
HALF OF  
THE  
CONCERT!

RAAH



THIS'LL  
DEFINITELY  
PUMP THE  
AUDIENCE  
UP!

...

MAN,  
KEIJI-KUN'S  
SMART!

LYRICS, MUSIC,  
CHOREOGRAPHY,  
HE HAS IT ALL!  
AND HE CAN PUT  
ON PERFECT  
PERFORMANCES  
LIKE THIS!

HA HA...  
YOU'RE  
MORE  
NERVOUS  
THAN ME.

BUT  
TAKE DEEP  
BREATHS,  
GOT IT?!

S-SO,  
KABE,  
DON'T GET  
NERVOUS.  
I KNOW  
THIS IS  
HUGE.

*Let's  
bring  
in our  
special  
guest!*

*All right,  
everyone!*

**RAA A A A A H**



...The  
rapper,  
Kabetaijin!!

The  
three-time  
champion of  
the freestyle  
MC Battle...



JUST FOLLOW  
THE SCRIPT AND  
THE AUDIENCE  
WILL EAT IT UP!

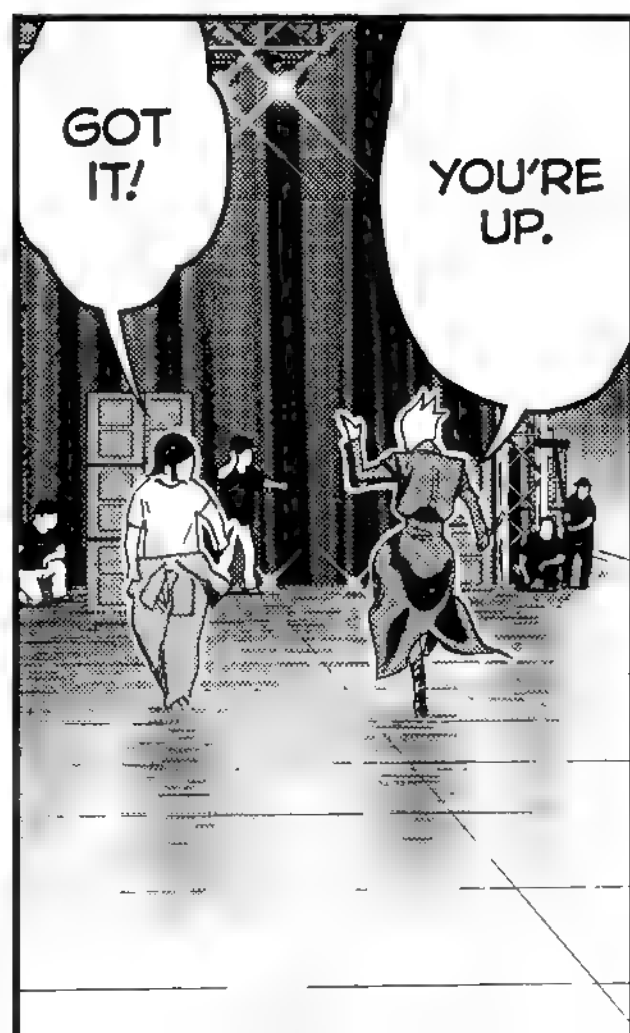
YOU'LL  
BE FINE!



WHAT,  
ARE YOU  
NERVOUS?

HM?

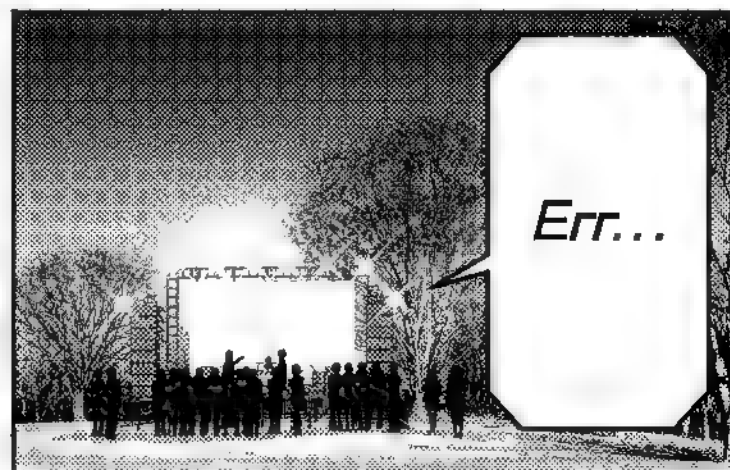
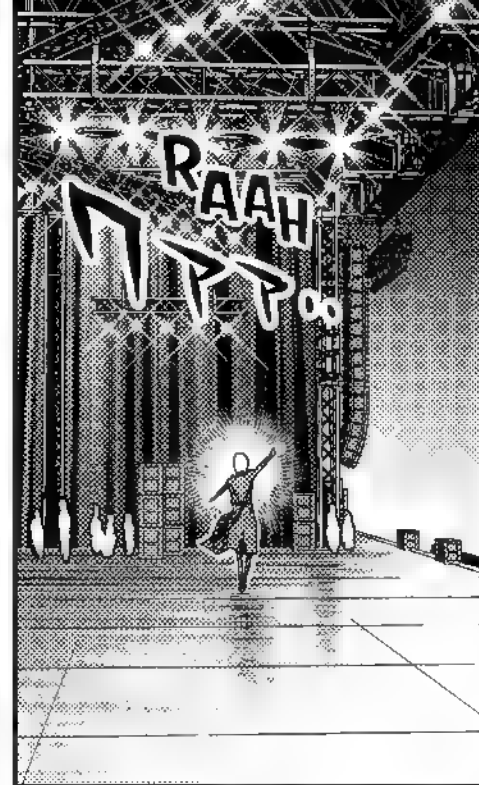
HA HA...  
YEAH,  
PRETTY  
NERVOUS.



GOT  
IT!

YOU'RE  
UP.







*But!*



WHY  
DIDN'T  
YOU  
WRITE  
THAT  
THEN?!

THE  
HELL?  
IT'S JUST  
A COVER  
BAND.



*East-South  
is some-  
where here,  
at summer  
Sonia.*



*...then that  
must mean  
you're all  
East-South  
fans, right?*

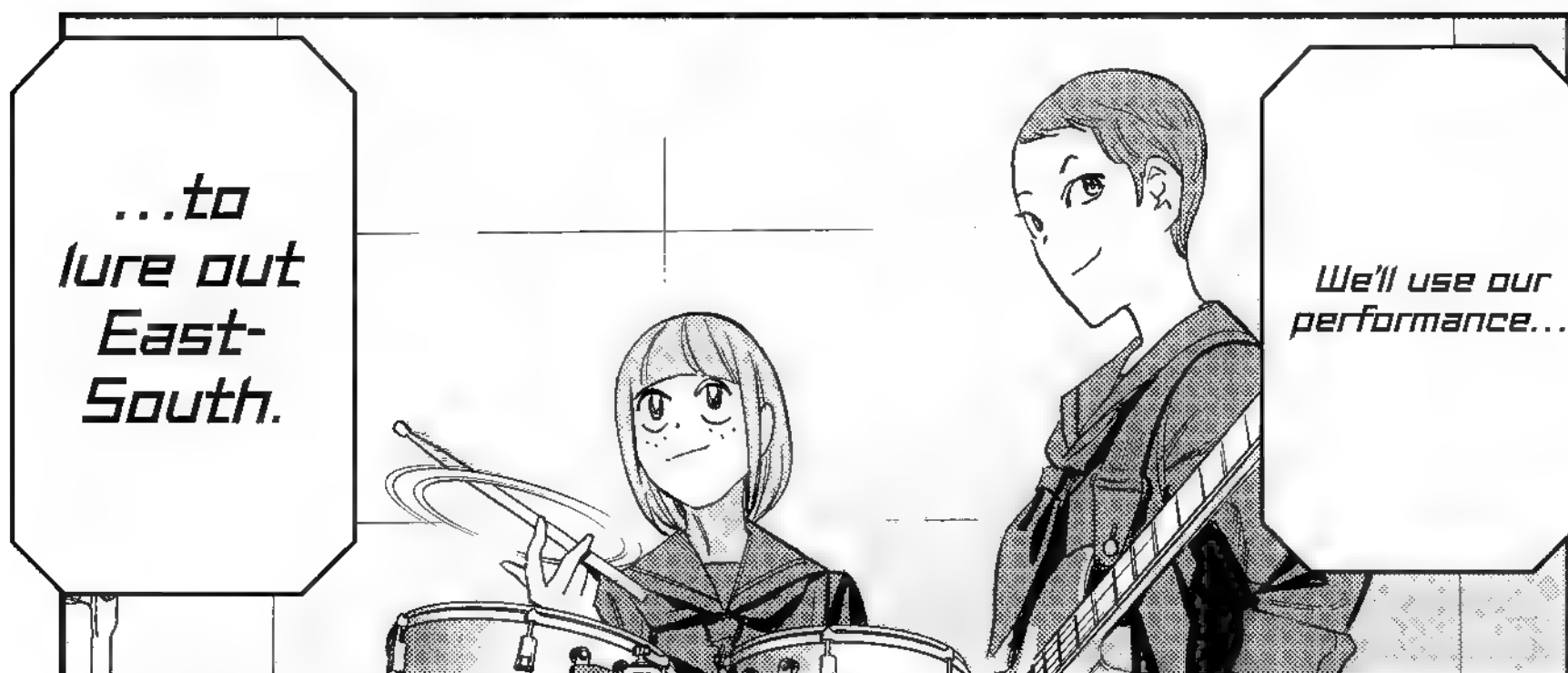
*If you're  
here...*



RIGHT?

I TOTALLY  
SAW TWO  
PEOPLE  
WHO  
COULD'VE  
BEEN  
EAST-  
SOUTH!

I  
KNEW  
IT!



*...to  
lure out  
East-  
South.*

*We'll use our  
performance...*

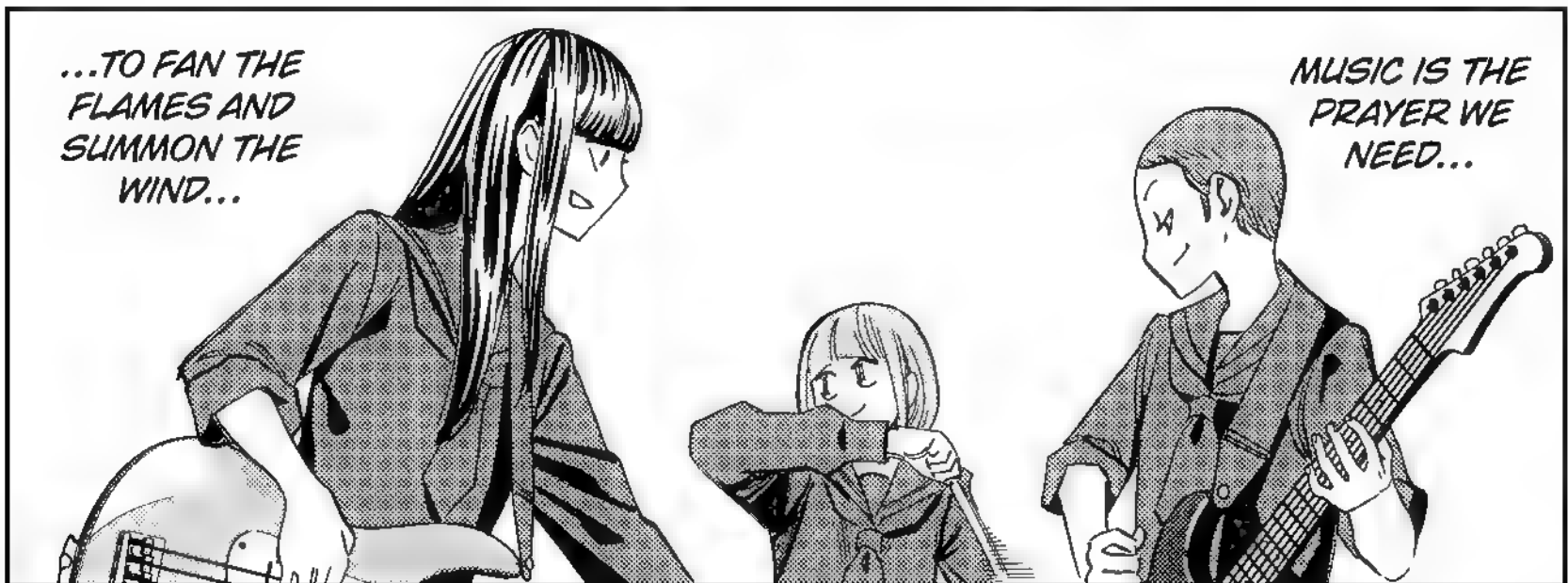




WHEN EMPLOYING  
OUR FORCES, WE  
MUST SEEM IN-  
ACTIVE. HOLD OUT  
BAIT TO ENTICE  
THE ENEMY...

ALL WARFARE  
IS BASED ON  
DECEPTION.

\*FROM SUN TZU, THE ART OF WAR (1)  
LAYING PLANS. THE ESSENCE OF BATTLE  
LIES IN HOW TO DECEIVE THE ENEMY.  
DECEIVE THE OPPONENT TO THINK THEY  
HAVE THE UPPER HAND AND USE THAT  
TO LURE THEM OUT.





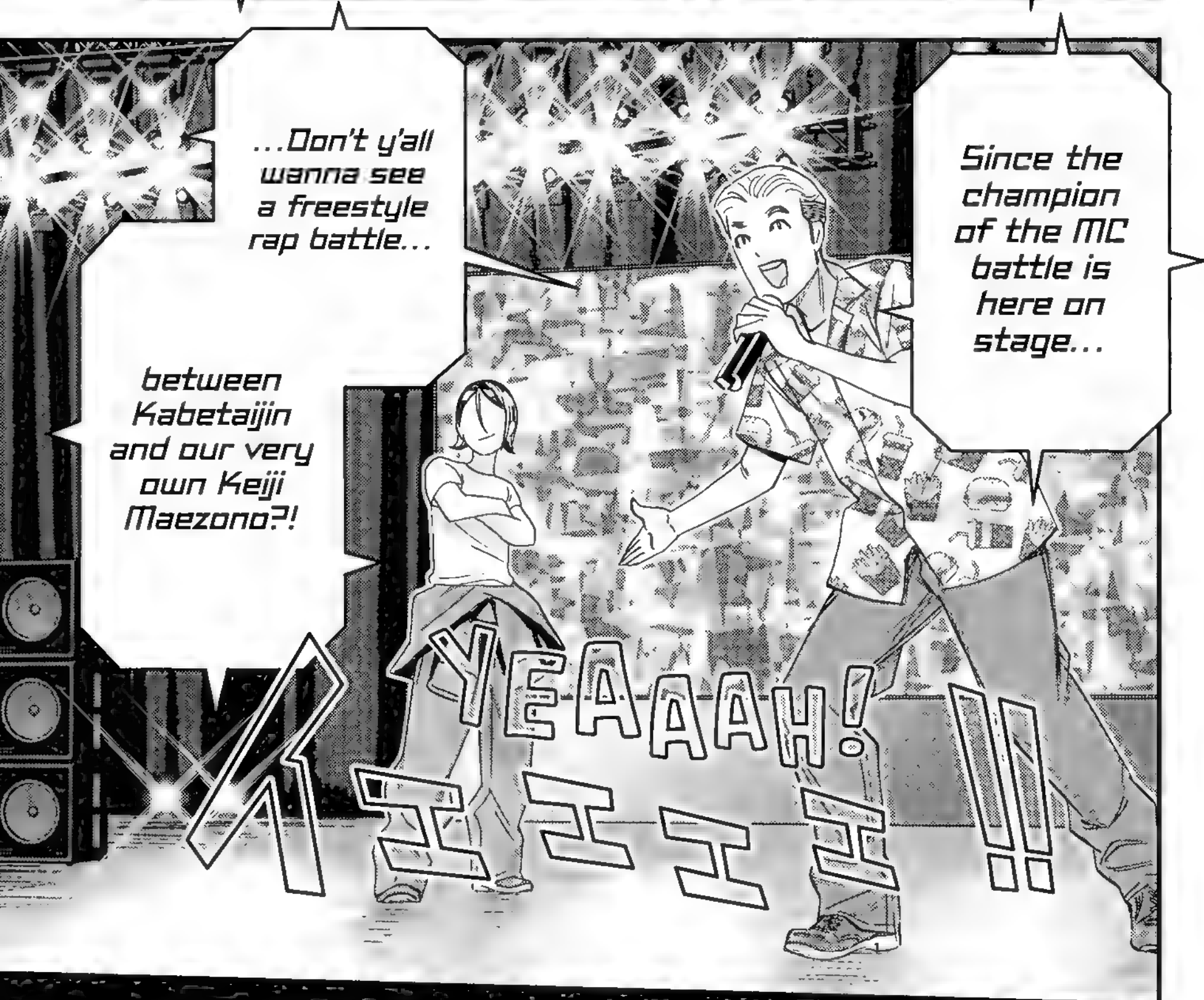
...WILL  
REACH  
THEM.

I BELIEVE THAT  
THESE GIRLS'  
THOUGHTS...  
AND THE WISHES  
OF THE PEOPLE...



That was  
Kabetaijin's  
special  
concert!

Yeah, yeah,  
yeah, thank  
you all!



...Don't y'all  
wanna see  
a freestyle  
rap battle...

Since the  
champion  
of the MC  
battle is  
here on  
stage...

between  
Kabetaijin  
and our very  
own Keiji  
Maezono?!





DRB  
three-time  
champion!

Yeah,  
yeah!

The  
name's  
Kabetai-  
jin!



VWP  
SSWP  
VWP



He'll  
be lying  
in bed,  
critical!

where he'll  
be sent  
to the  
hospital...

This will  
be his  
fresh  
new  
chroni-  
cle...

This  
rookie's  
ahead,  
so he  
might  
as well  
quit!

Keiji  
ain't  
shit!

Ya call  
this a  
battle?



That'll  
make  
every-  
thing  
clear!

I've  
got  
the  
tea...

Now  
listen  
up!

Every-  
one  
here!

can't ya  
tell?!

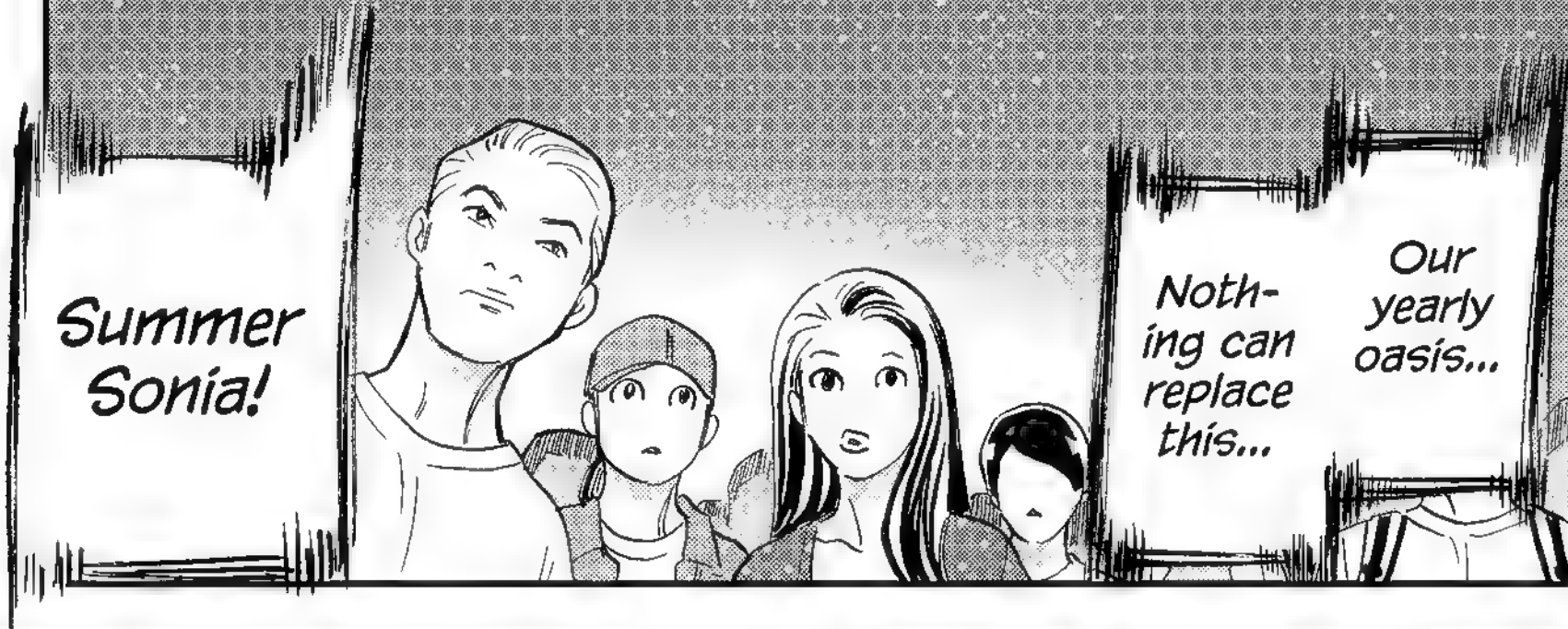
L for  
loser  
...

How  
to  
spell!

That's  
you...

Let  
me  
tell  
ya...







Join my  
fans...

and  
revere  
me  
anew!

Follow  
me,  
love  
me...

I'll  
show  
you no  
one's  
above  
me!

Not on  
my stage,  
where the  
world obeys  
me! You  
don't scare  
me—think it  
through!

I can  
spell  
just  
fine,  
thank  
you...

But  
I'm  
no L,  
I'm  
a W!

GAA  
AAH  
LOOK  
HERE!









*C'mon  
girls and  
guys, feast  
your eyes,  
on this  
summer's  
legendary  
rise!*



*...I'll  
stay the  
course...*

*I'm layin'  
out the  
bait...  
you'll be  
hooked  
at this  
rate...*

*Hey, hey,  
come at  
me with  
force...*



*OKAY, THEY'VE  
GOT ALL THE  
LINES RIGHT  
SO FAR...*



*NEXT, THEY  
SHOW THEIR  
RESPECT  
FOR EACH  
OTHER...*



*HIS IM-  
PROMPTU  
RAPs ARE PER-  
FEEECT!!*

*HE'S  
WIPING  
THE FLOOR  
WITH THE  
CHAMPION!*



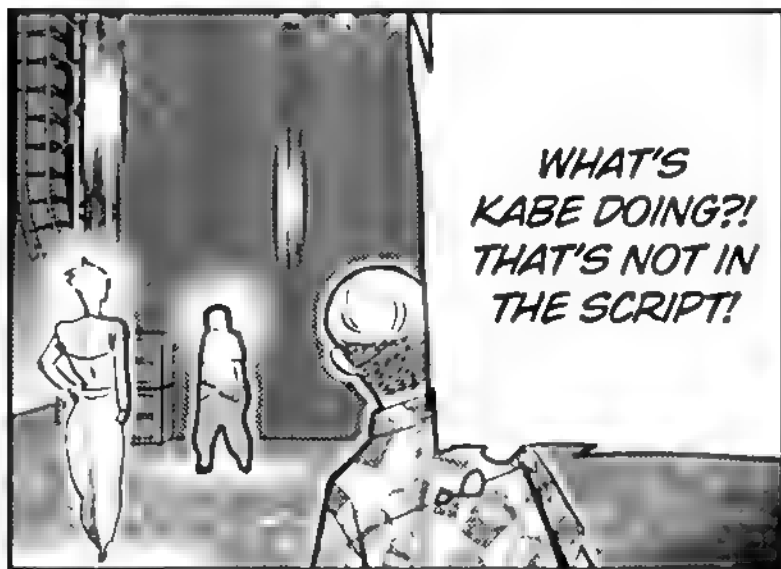
I'm  
gonna  
tear you  
apart!

Of  
Kabe's  
true  
art!      The  
second  
round's  
the  
start!



Well, I  
think he's  
lyin', I'll  
tell you  
straight!

Y'all  
think  
he's  
great?      Lyrics,  
music  
dance...

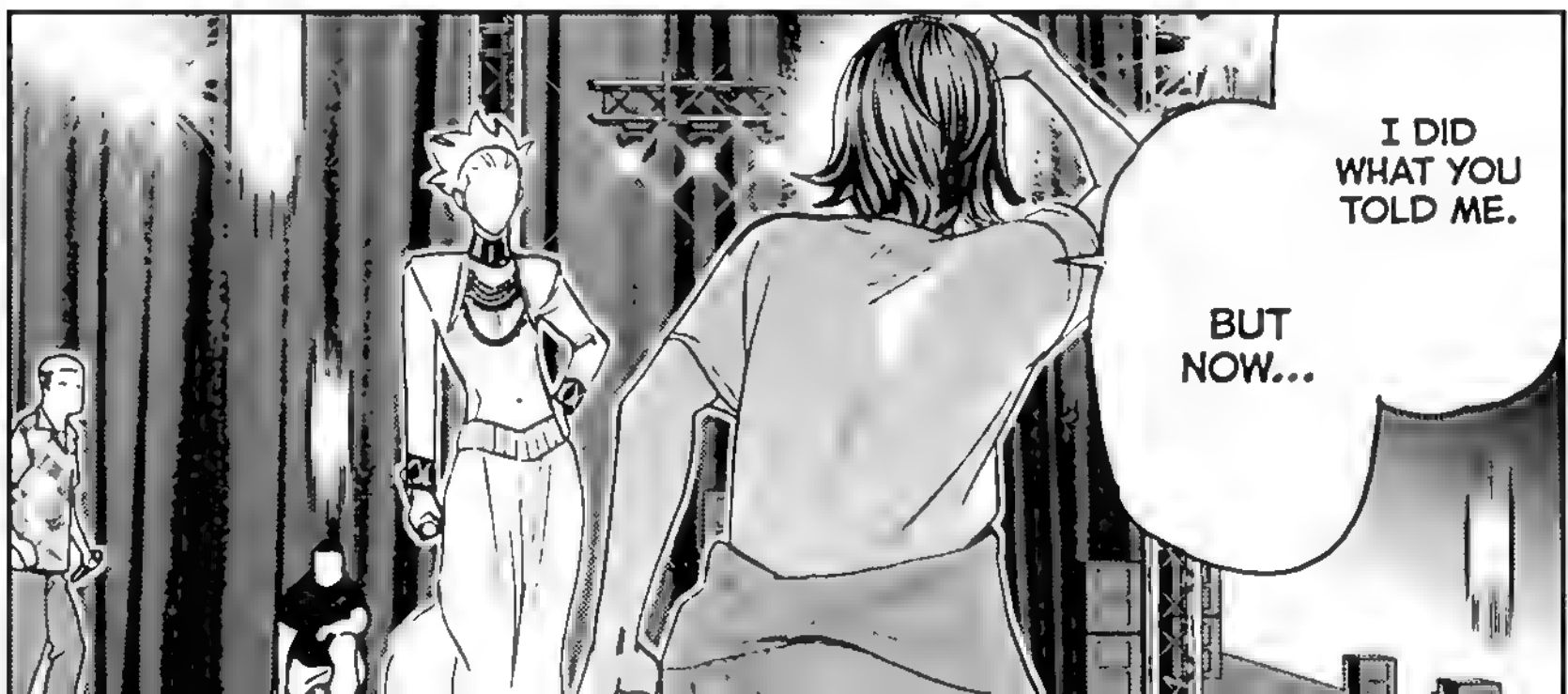


WHAT'S  
KABE DOING?!  
THAT'S NOT IN  
THE SCRIPT!



BRING  
THAT  
RAPPER  
DOWN!!

GO,  
KEIJI-  
SAMA!



I DID  
WHAT YOU  
TOLD ME.

BUT  
NOW...





42  
604  
1009  
111121





...HE  
EMPLOYED  
THIS SAME  
STRATEGY  
BY ALLOWING  
HIS ENEMY,  
CAO CAO...

TO BELIEVE  
THAT THERE  
WAS UNREST  
WITHIN HIS  
WU ARMY.

WELL, THAT  
MILITARY  
GENERAL,  
ZHOU YU...

LONG  
AGO, THE  
MILITARY  
GENERAL  
OF WU...

IN TODAY'S  
TERMS, HE  
WOULD BE  
CALLED A  
COMMANDER,  
I SUPPOSE...

HE WASN'T  
SOMEONE  
ZHOU YU COULD  
EASILY DECIEVE.

CAO CAO,  
HOWEVER, IS  
A WISE AND  
CAUTIOUS  
MAN.

A HUN-  
DRED?

HE WENT  
AS FAR AS TO  
SENTENCE HUANG  
GAI TO A HUNDRED  
LASHES IN  
PUBLIC.

ZHOU YU UTILIZED  
A GENERAL BY THE  
NAME OF HUANG  
GAI TO ACT OUT  
THE DISARRAY THAT  
THEIR ARMY HAD  
SUPPOSEDLY  
SUCCUMBED TO.



NEWS OF THIS  
REACHED CAO  
CAO'S EARS...AND  
HE THEN TRULY  
BELIEVED THAT  
HUANG GAI HAD  
BETRAYED HIS  
MEN.

THE INJURIES  
WERE SO SEVERE,  
HUANG GAI WAS  
LEFT BEDRIDDEN  
FOR THREE DAYS  
AND THREE  
NIGHTS.

HOWEVER,  
YOU WILL  
HAVE TO  
SUFFER PAIN  
IN YOUR  
HEART.

YES...  
WE'LL AVOID  
HURTING YOU  
PHYSICALLY,  
OF COURSE.

AND  
YOU  
WANT  
THAT...

TO BE  
ME?

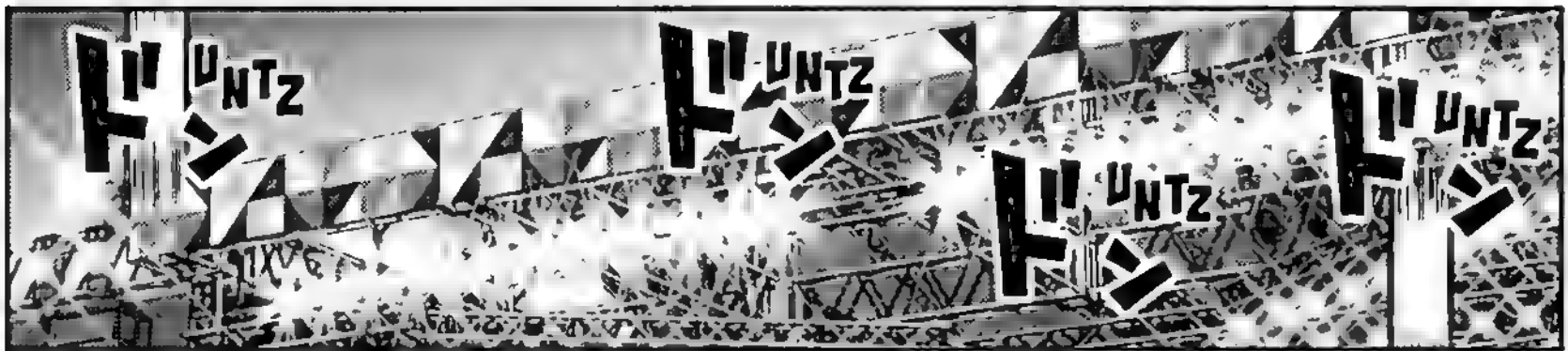
I'LL  
DO IT!

IF YOU  
WISH TO NOT  
PARTICIPATE...

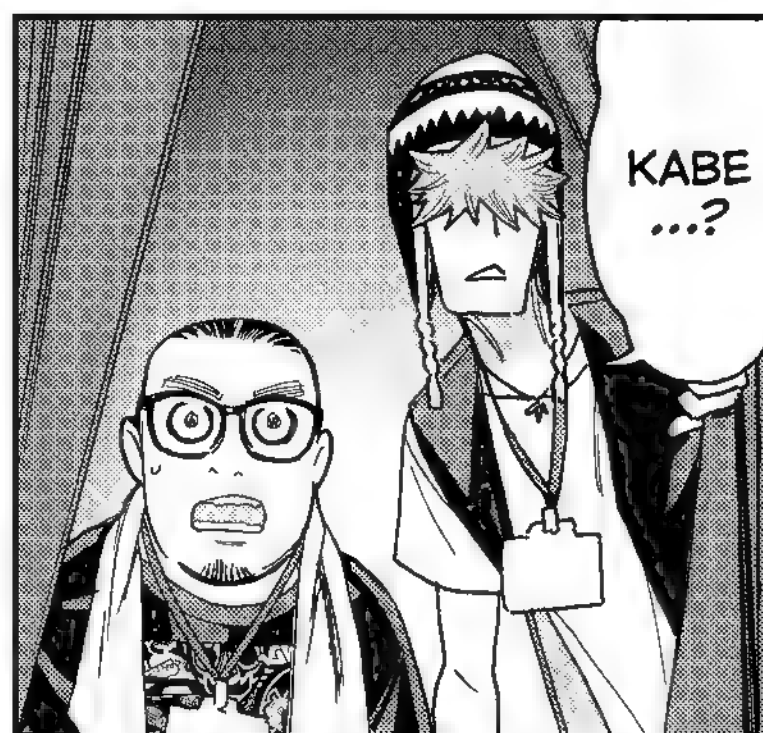
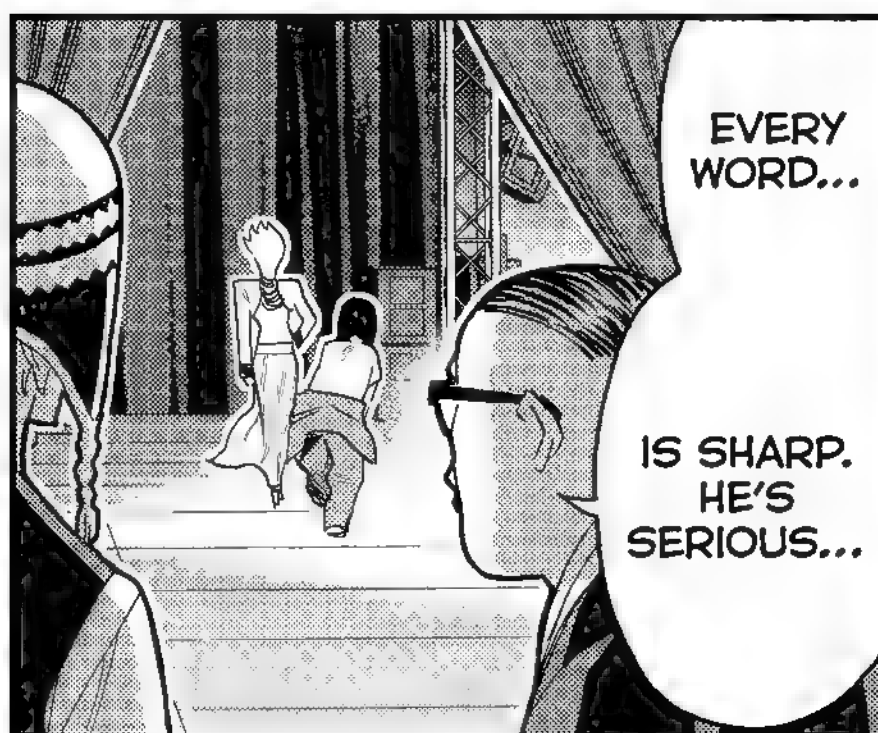
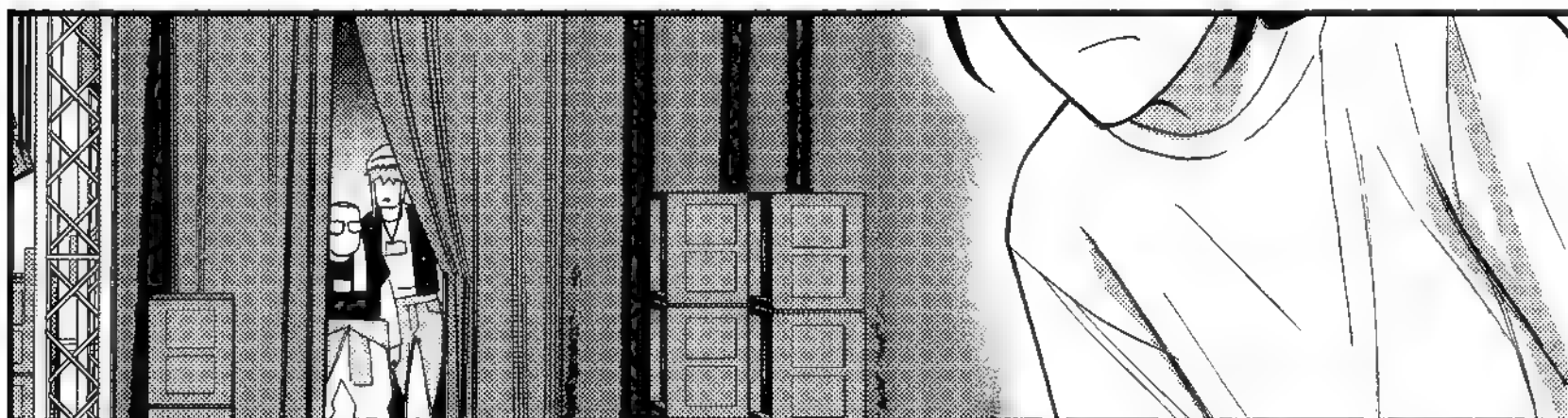
THAT'S DIRTY! AND  
THIS FESTIVAL IS  
MEANT TO BRING  
JOY TO EVERYONE.  
I CAN'T LET HIM  
GET AWAY WITH  
THIS...

PLUS...

THAT KEIJI  
JERK MESSED UP  
TSUKIMI-SAN'S  
MIC ON THE FIRST  
NIGHT, RIGHT?



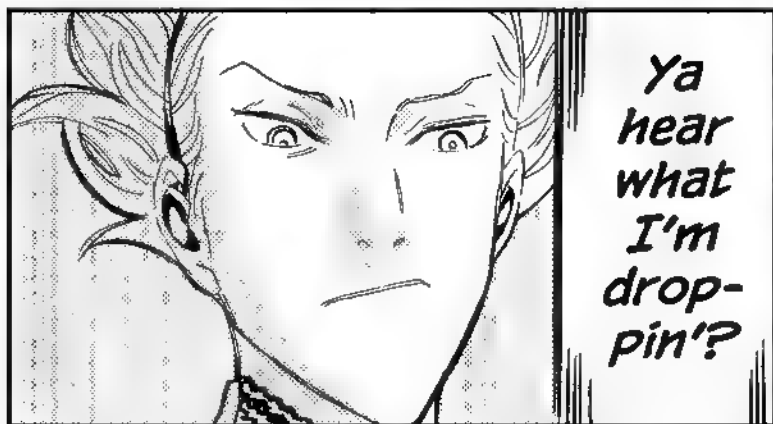






good say to  
bye!

Perfec-  
tion's a  
facade!  
It's  
'bout  
time...



Ya  
hear  
what  
I'm  
drop-  
pin'?



HOW DID  
HE KNOW  
ABOUT  
THE  
GHOST-  
WRITER  
THING?!

HOW  
?!



IT'S JUST  
BEEN THAT  
RAPPER  
GOING AT IT  
THE WHOLE  
TIME...

WHAT'S  
HE  
SAYING?



a  
to-  
tal  
lie!

Says  
he writes  
his own  
lyrics, but  
that's...

Keiji  
Maezono,  
the fake,  
the sham,  
the fraud!  
Got a whole  
ghost-writer  
squad!





*But you're  
spittin' on  
them from  
up above!*

*Music's  
these  
people's  
life and  
love!*

*I'm  
just here to  
serve justice  
and I'm here  
to spill tea!*

*Hey, Mr.  
so-called  
Perfect!  
Don't  
forget my  
kill fee!*

*Takin'  
their  
talent  
and  
cheers!*

*It's  
been  
goin' for  
years!*

*Keiji's  
money  
keeps 'em  
trapped  
where they  
don't  
belong!*

*East-  
South are  
the ones  
behind his  
song!*

*Let's  
hear your  
excuse  
and your  
dis-  
respect!*

*Gimme  
your  
answer,  
Mr.  
Perfect...*

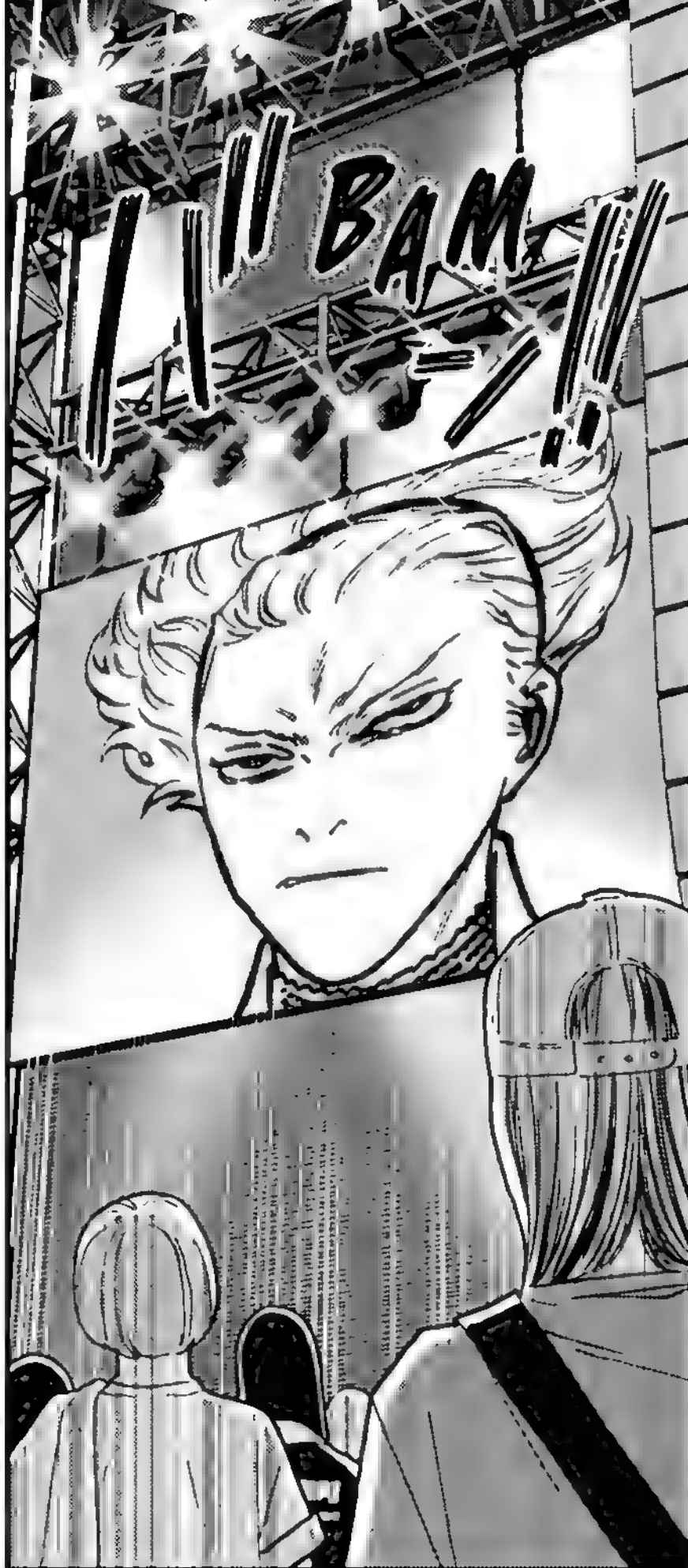


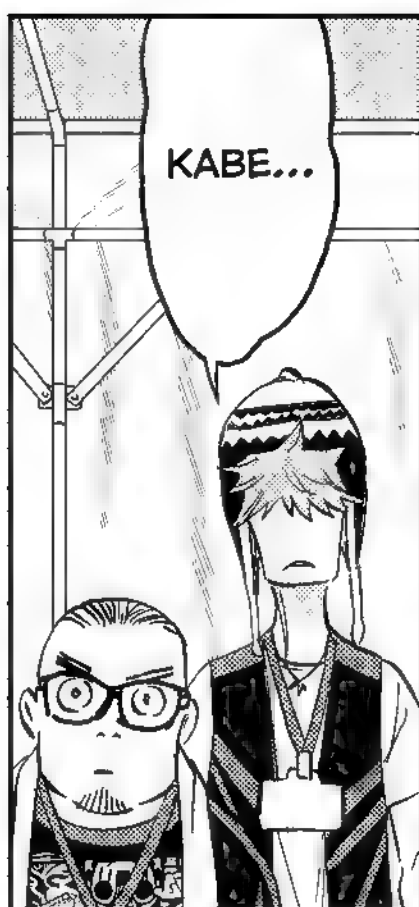












AFTER LISTENING TO EAST-SOUTH'S MUSIC, I REALIZED THAT THEY POUR THEIR WHOLE SOULS INTO THEIR SONGS!



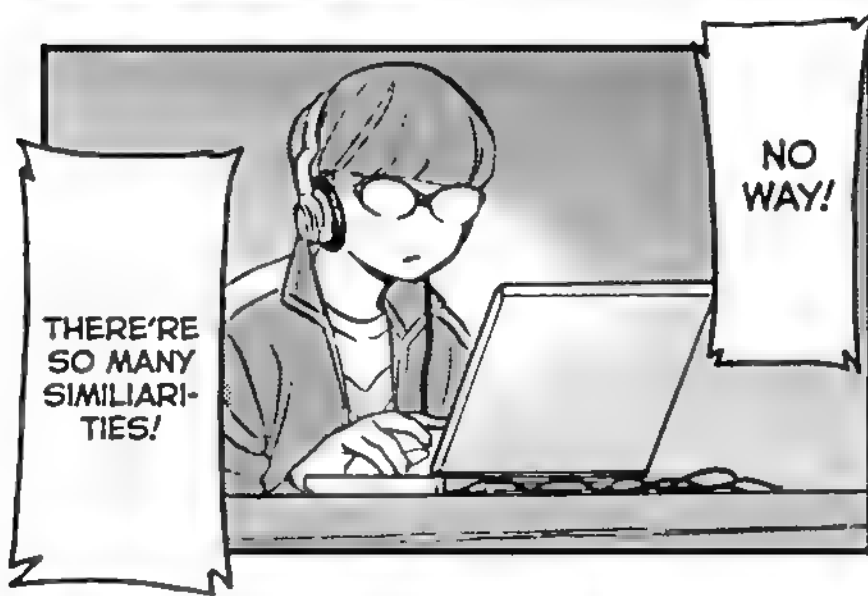


...SAYING  
THAT THEY  
DON'T THINK  
YOU WRITE  
YOUR OWN  
MATERIAL.

THERE'RE  
A LOT OF  
PEOPLE  
ON THE  
SUMMER  
SONIA  
BOARDS...



KEIJI-  
SAN...



THERE'RE  
SO MANY  
SIMILIARI-  
TIES!

NO  
WAY!



SOMEONE'S  
COMPARING  
KEIJI'S  
SONGS  
TO EAST-  
SOUTH'S  
MUSIC!

LOOK AT  
THE KEIJI  
BOARD!

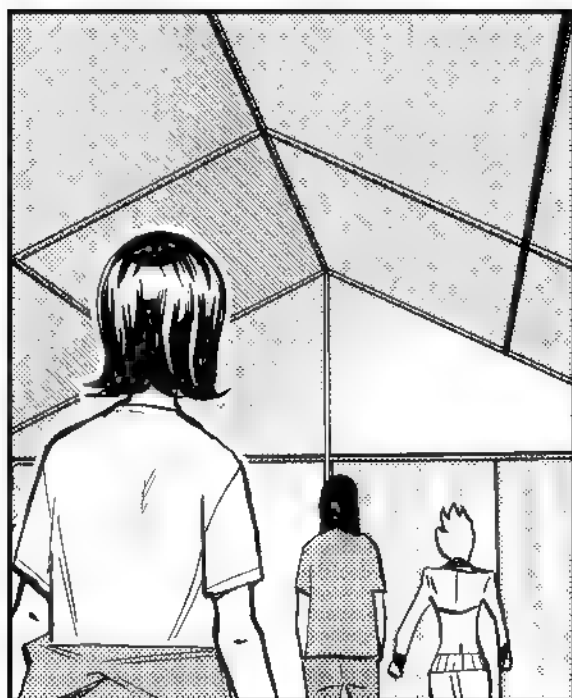
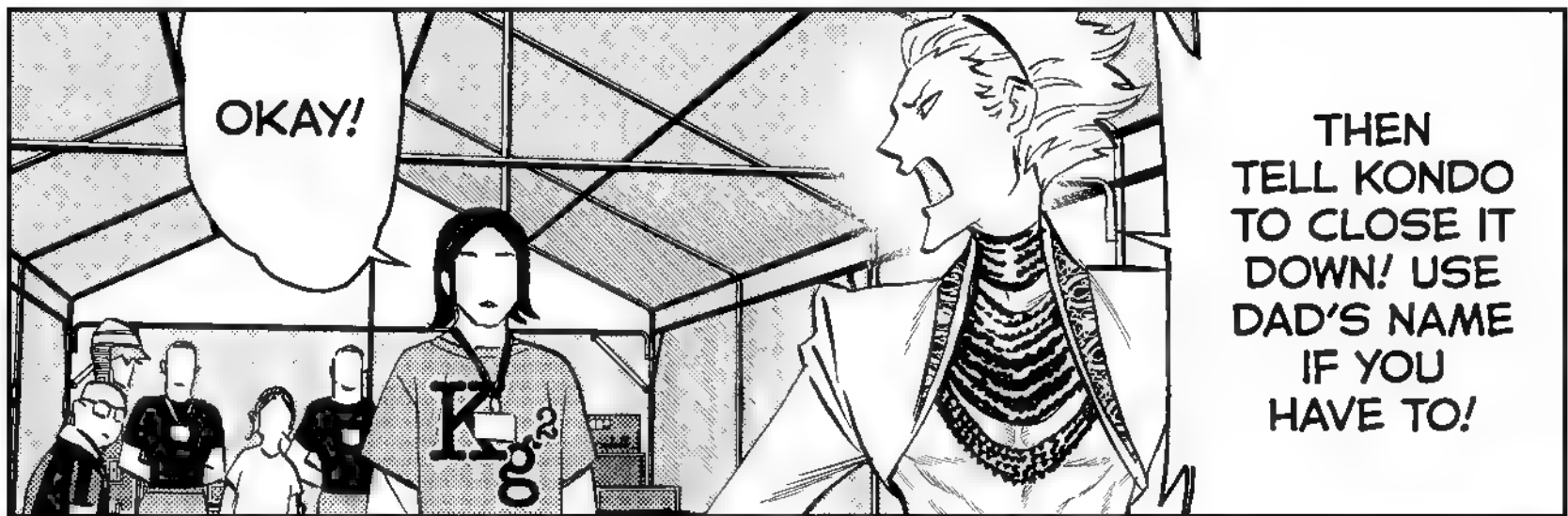
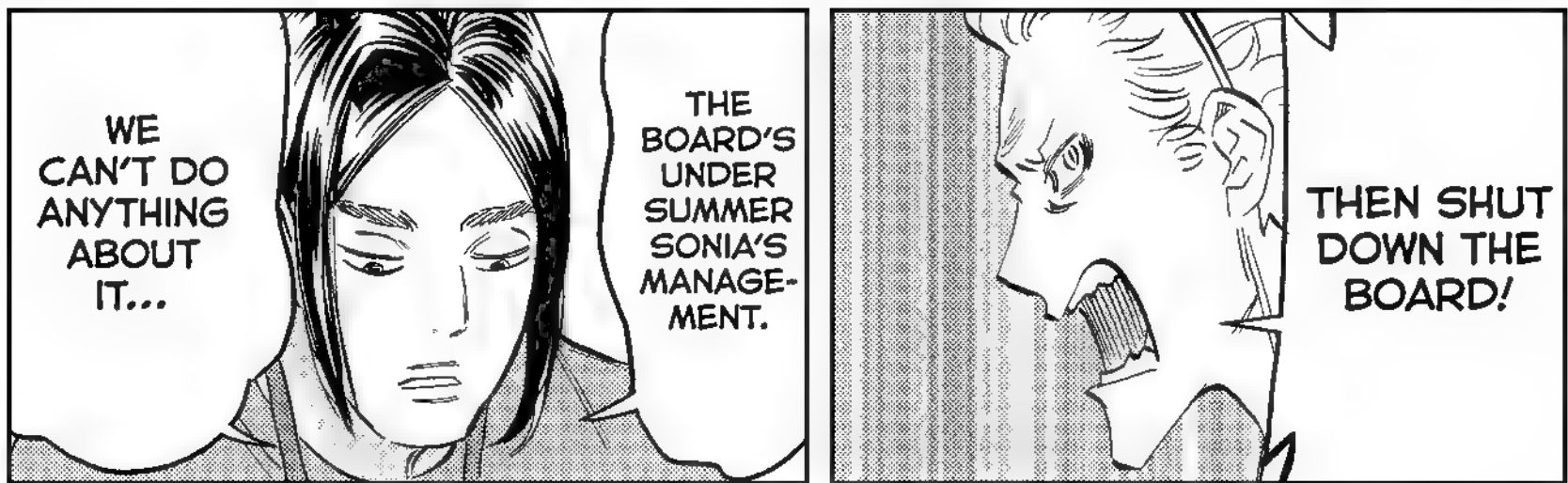


KEIJI  
MAEZONO  
USES  
GHOST-  
WRITERS?



THIS'LL  
BE HUGE  
IF IT'S  
TRUE!

DIG UP  
SOME  
PROOF  
AND  
SOURC-  
ES!







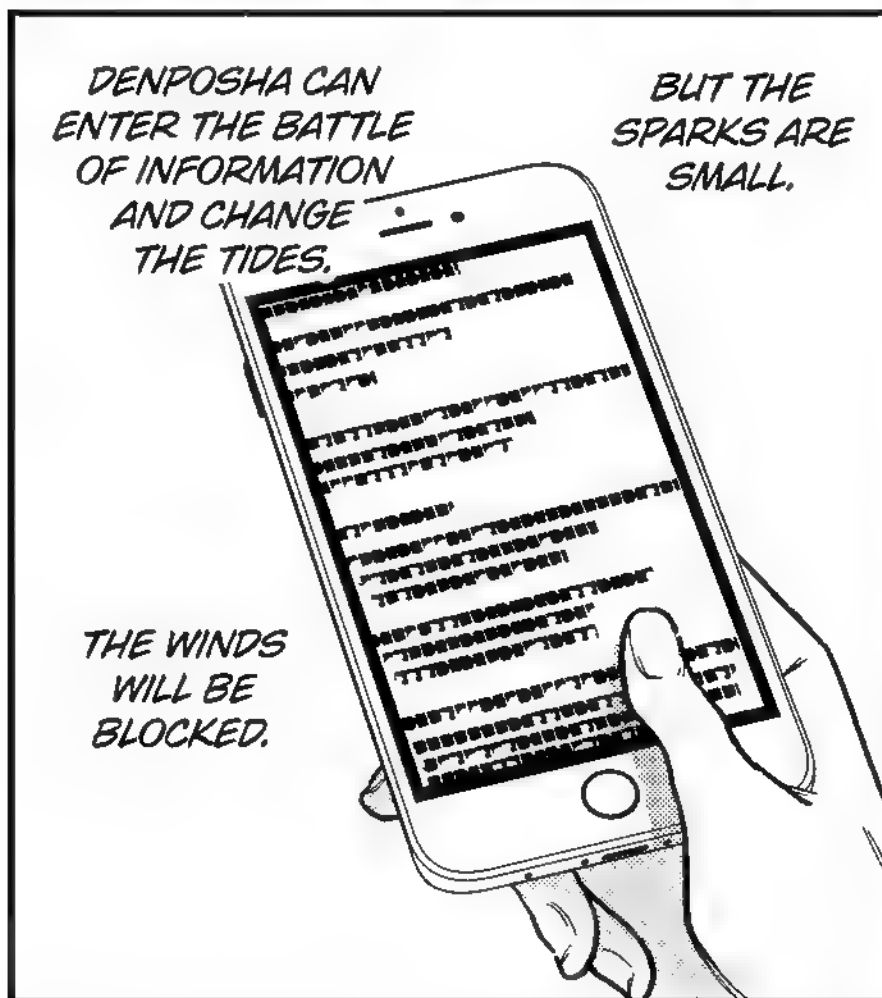
KABE?!



WHOA!



SWP



DENPOSHA CAN  
ENTER THE BATTLE  
OF INFORMATION  
AND CHANGE  
THE TIDES.

BUT THE  
SPARKS ARE  
SMALL.

THE WINDS  
WILL BE  
BLOCKED.



...WELL DONE,  
SIR KABE.

THE FIRES  
ARE LIT...

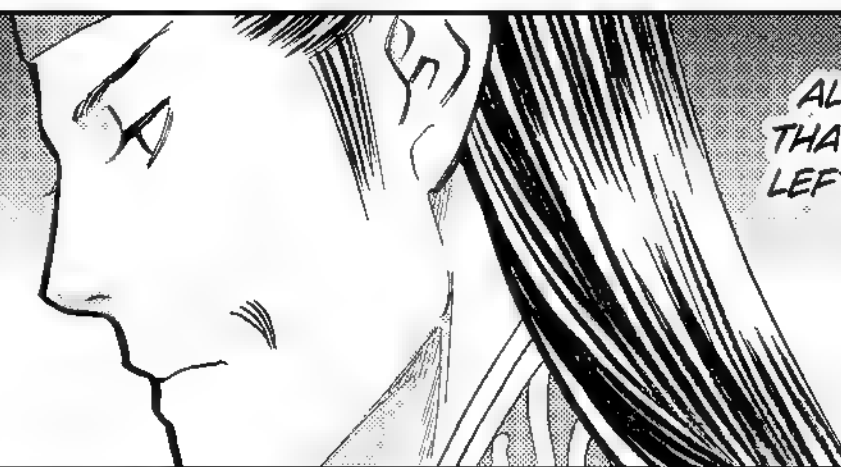
THEIR TESTIMONY WILL  
BECOME THE SOUTHEAST  
WIND THAT WILL FAN THE  
FLAMES SURROUNDING  
KEIJI MAEZONO.



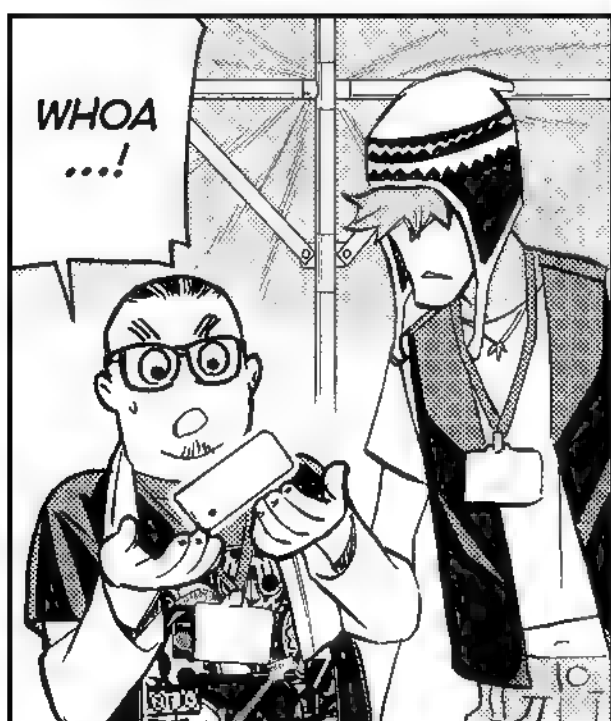
NOW THAT  
THE SPARKS HAVE  
STARTED, WE NEED  
THEIR VOICE.

...IS TO PRAY...

ALL  
THAT'S  
LEFT...



THE  
SECRET  
CONCERT  
HAS  
ALREADY  
STARTED!

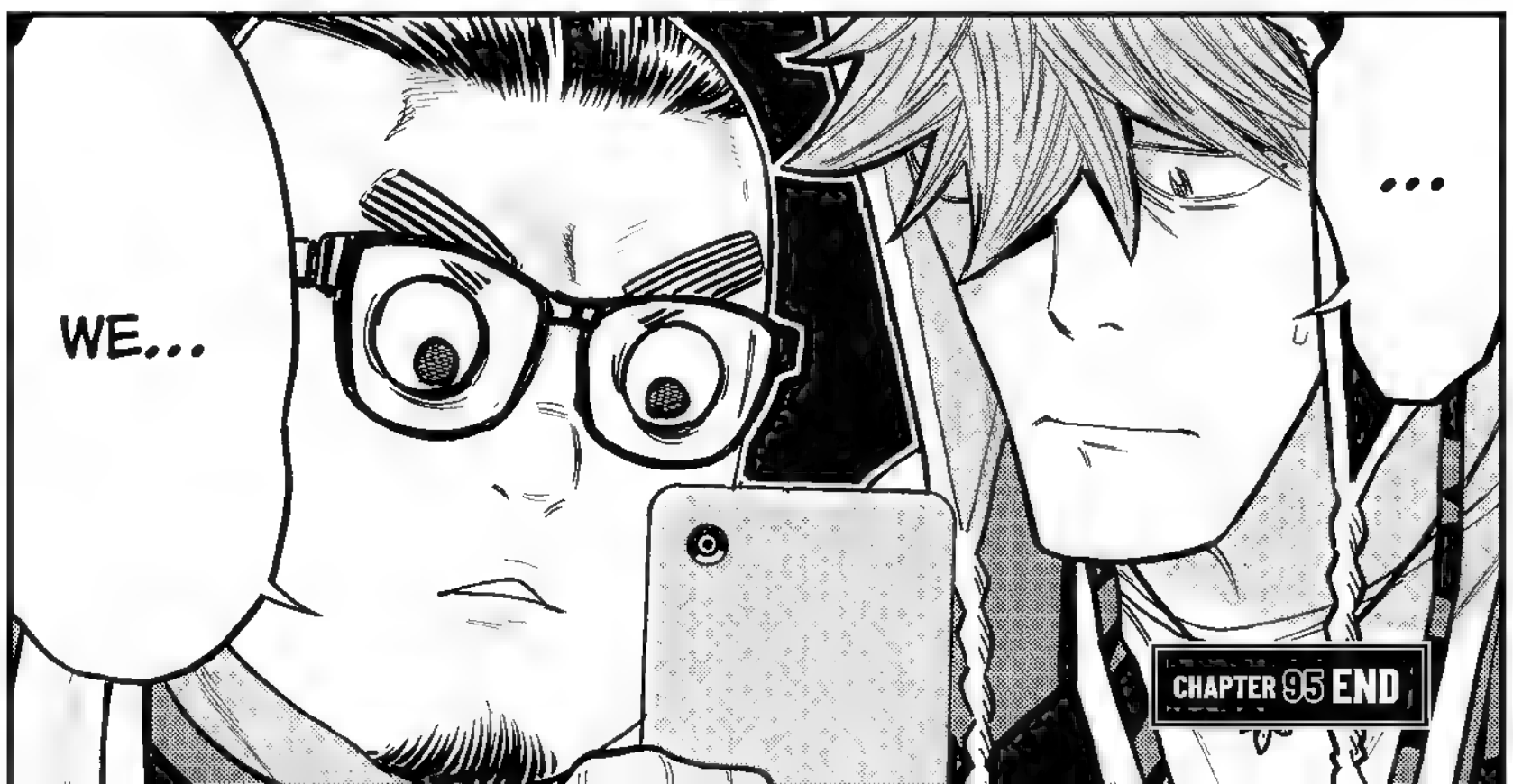
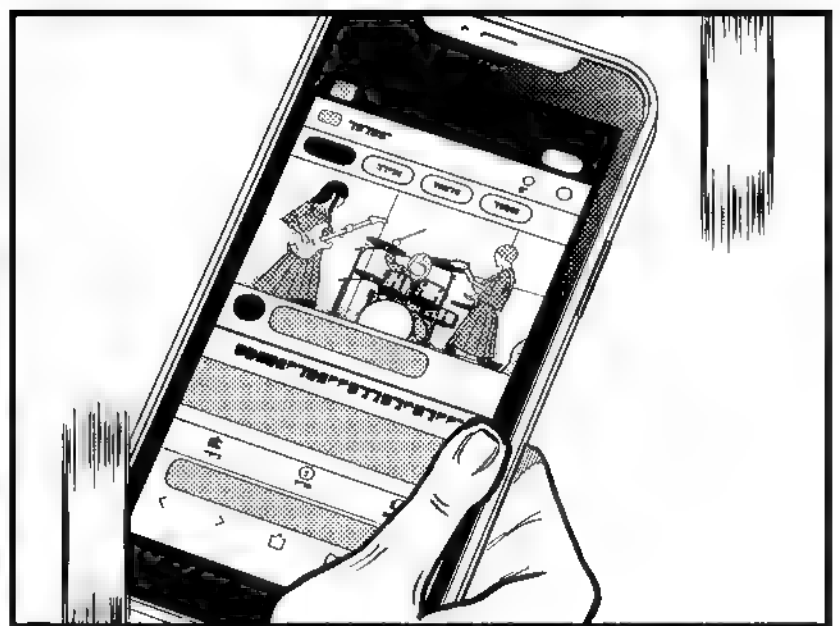


WHOA  
...!



ARE YOU  
TWO SURE  
YOU DON'T  
NEED TO  
GO?!



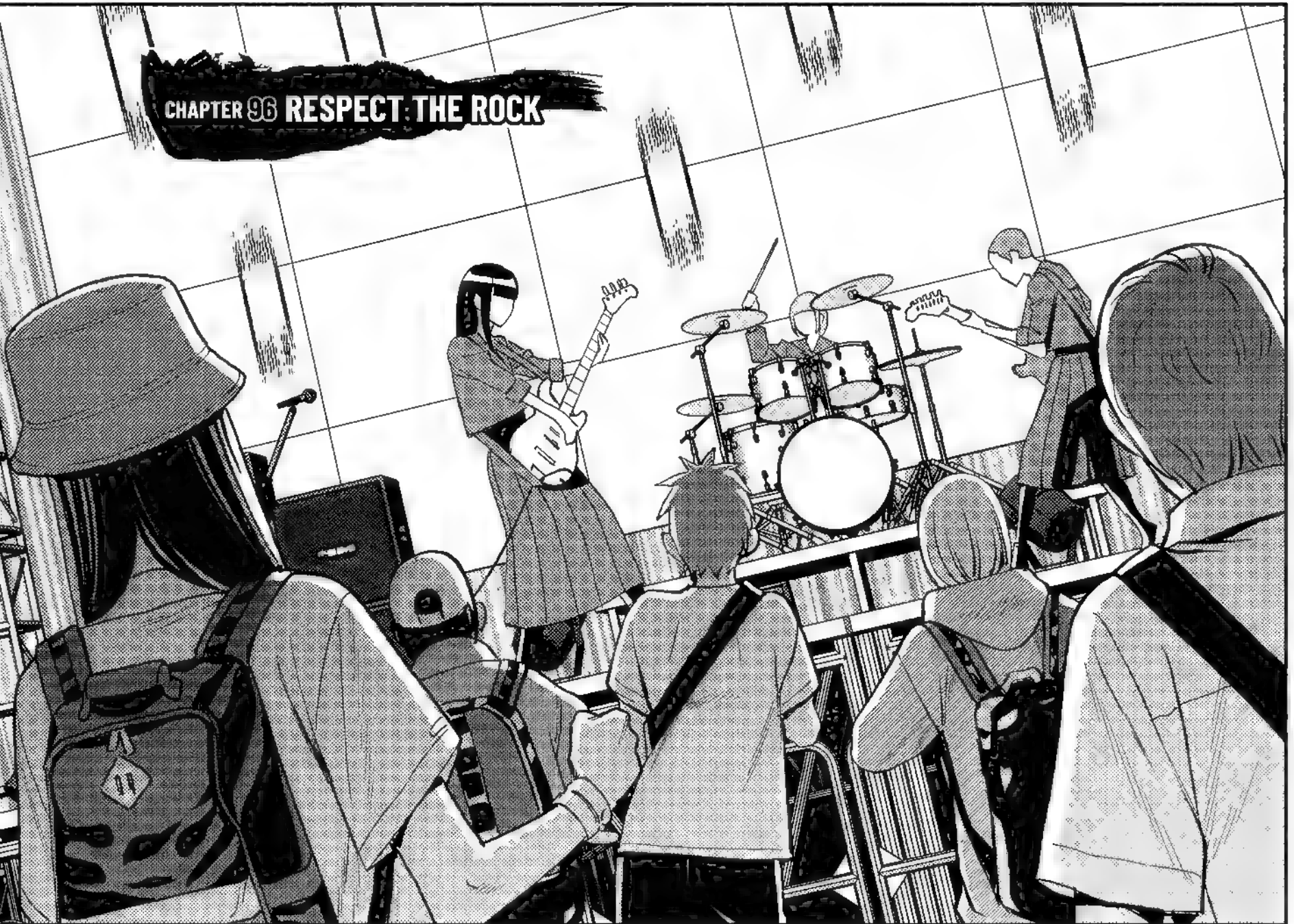


42  
604  
1009  
1009



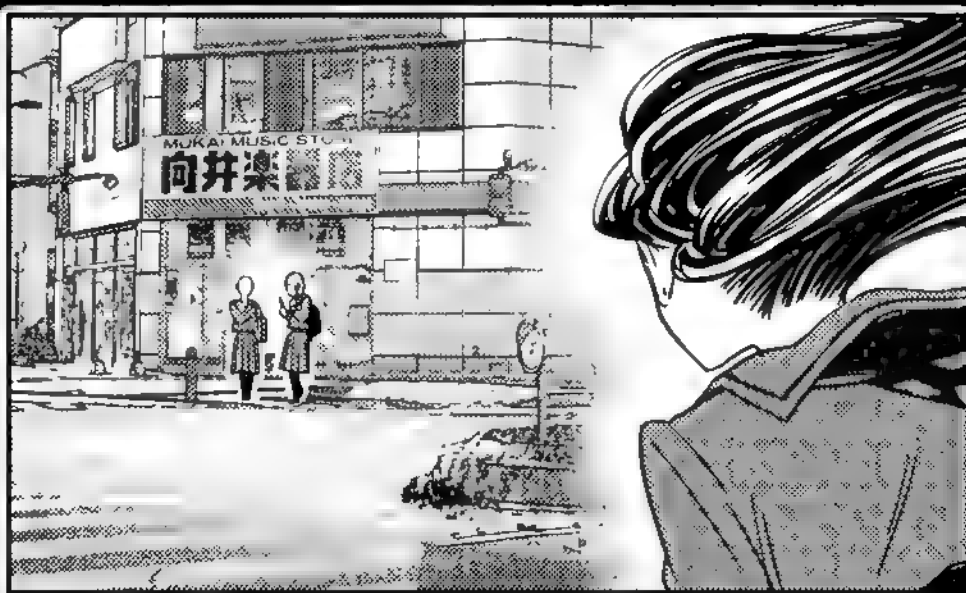
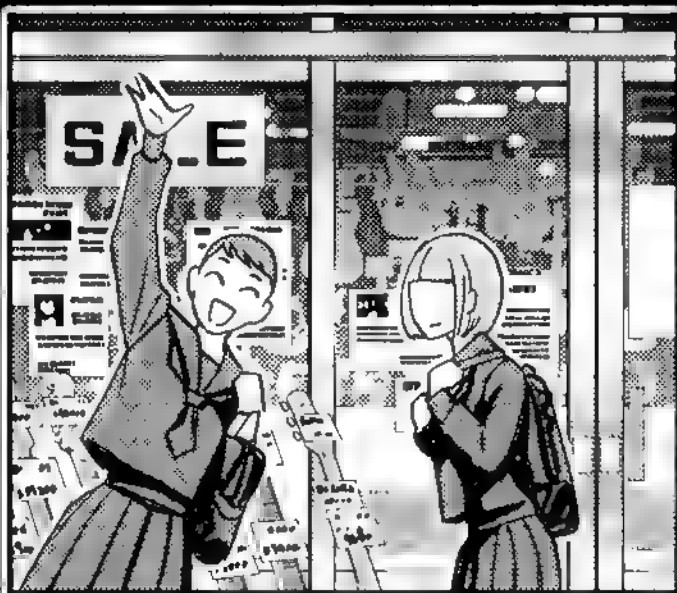
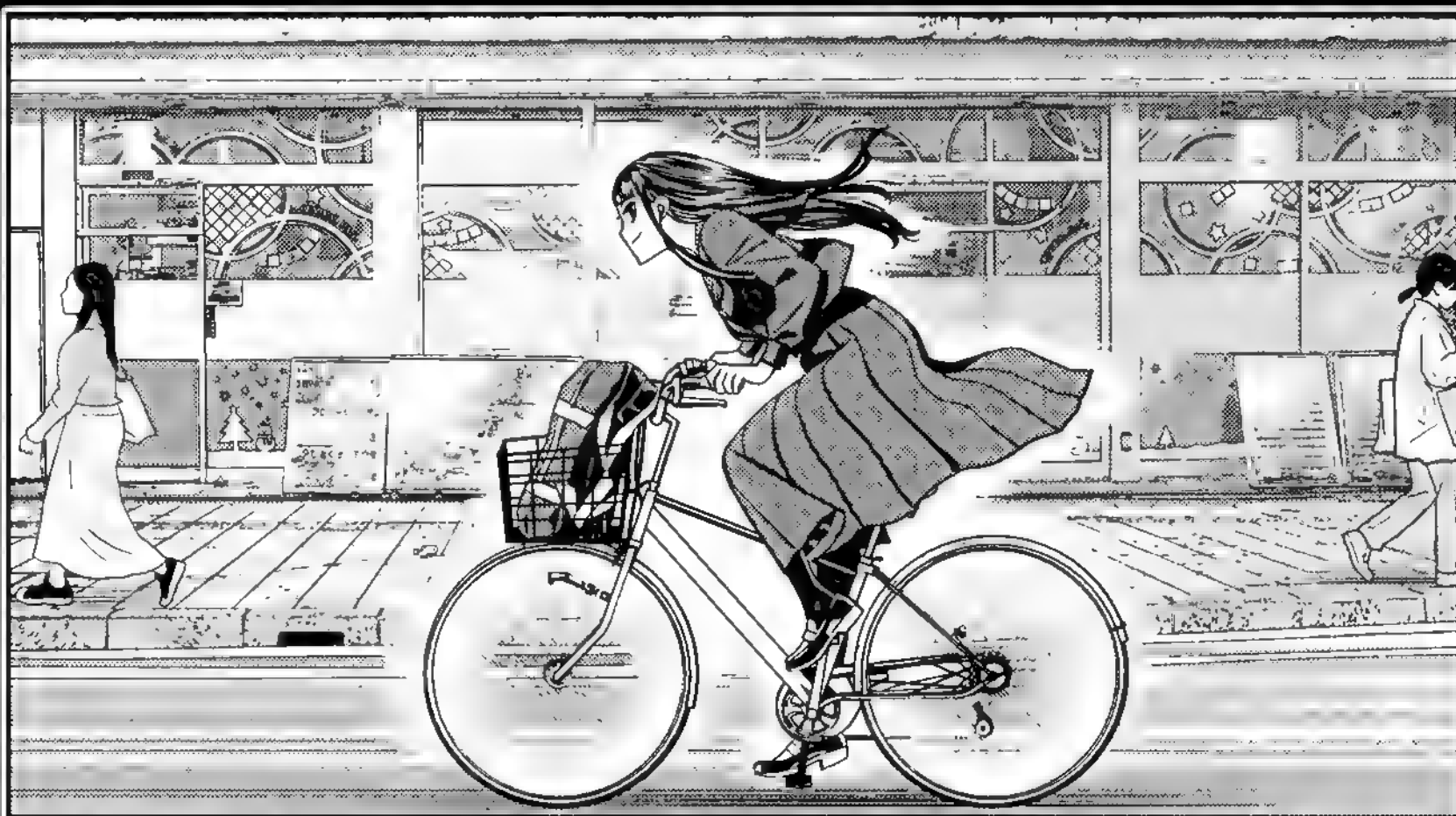
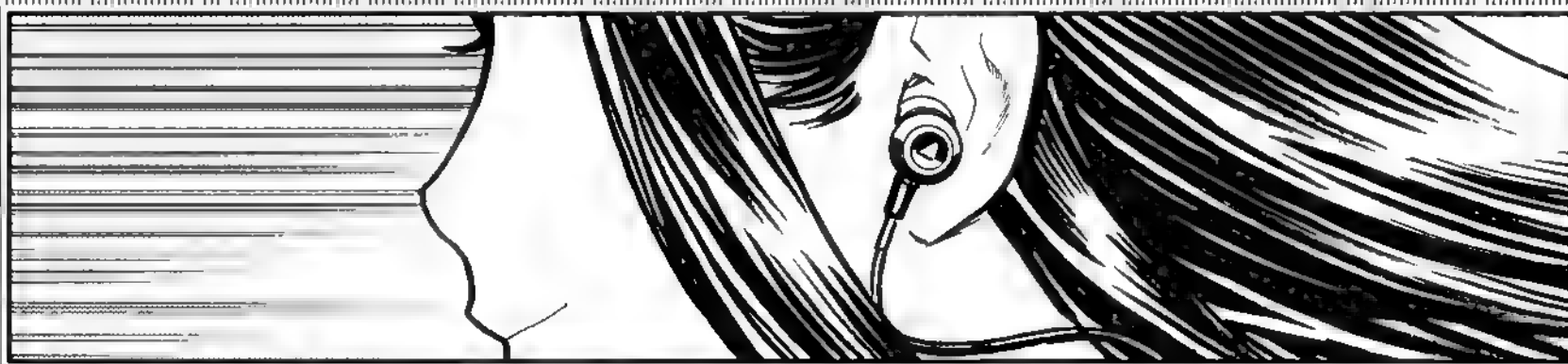


CHAPTER 96 RESPECT THE ROCK



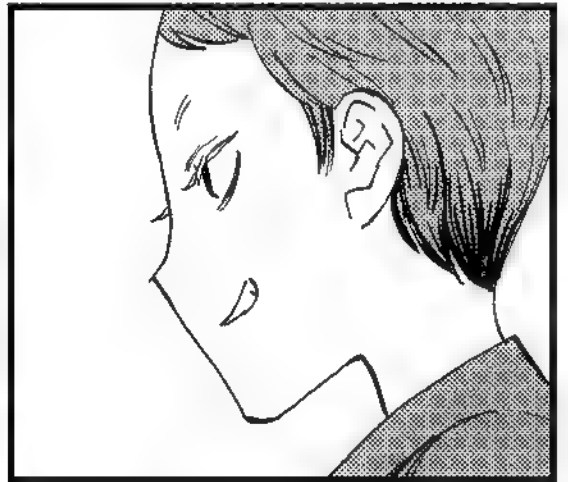
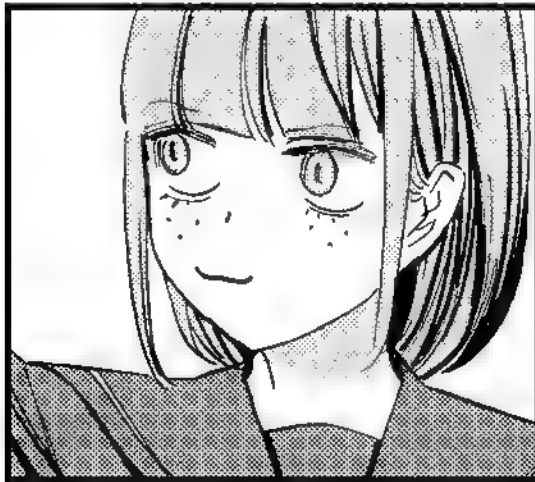
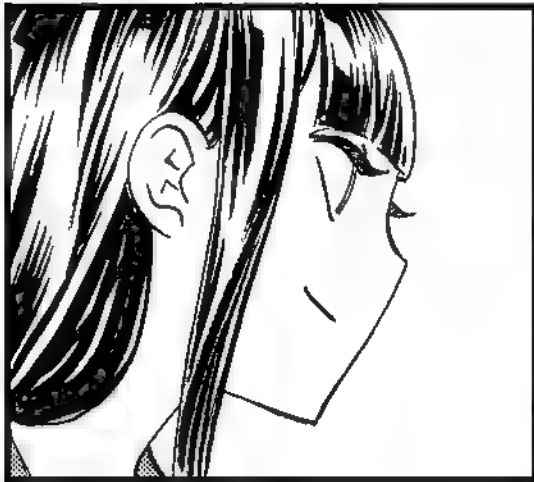
I'M SURE EAST-SOUTH  
HAS FORGOTTEN, TOO...

...ABOUT THE  
MOST IMPORTANT  
THING OF ALL.



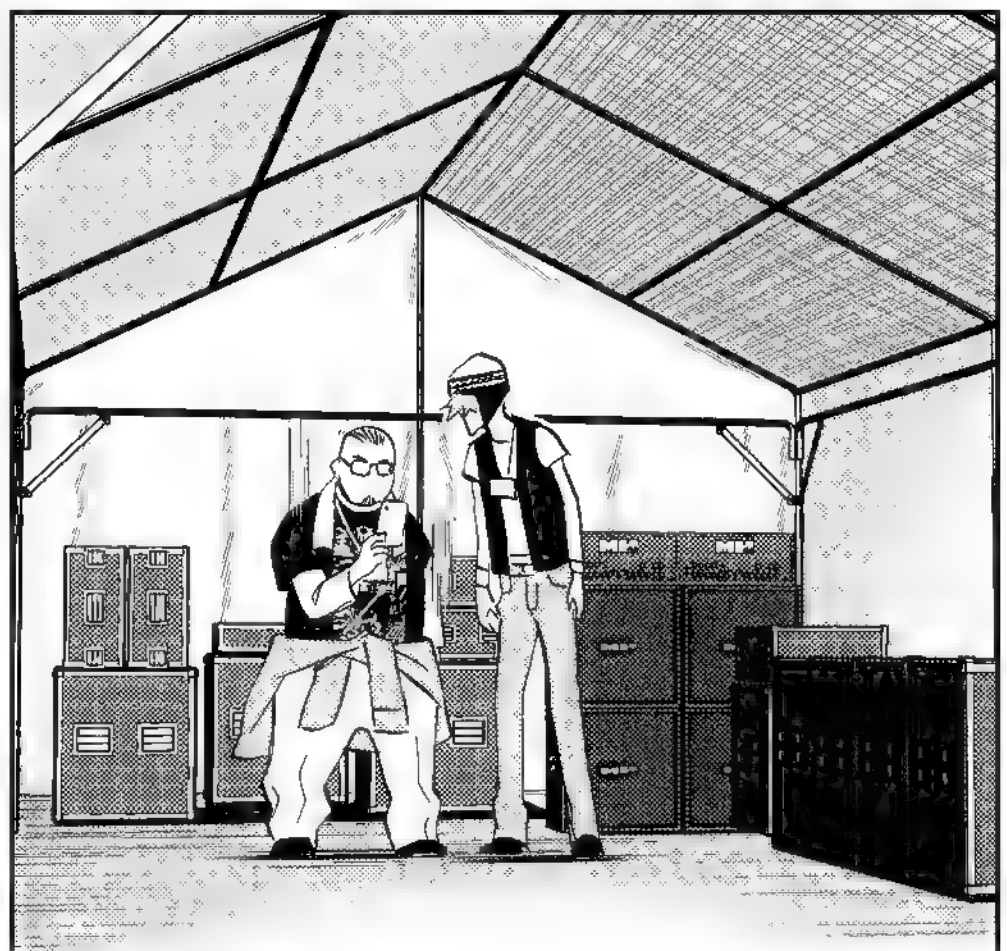
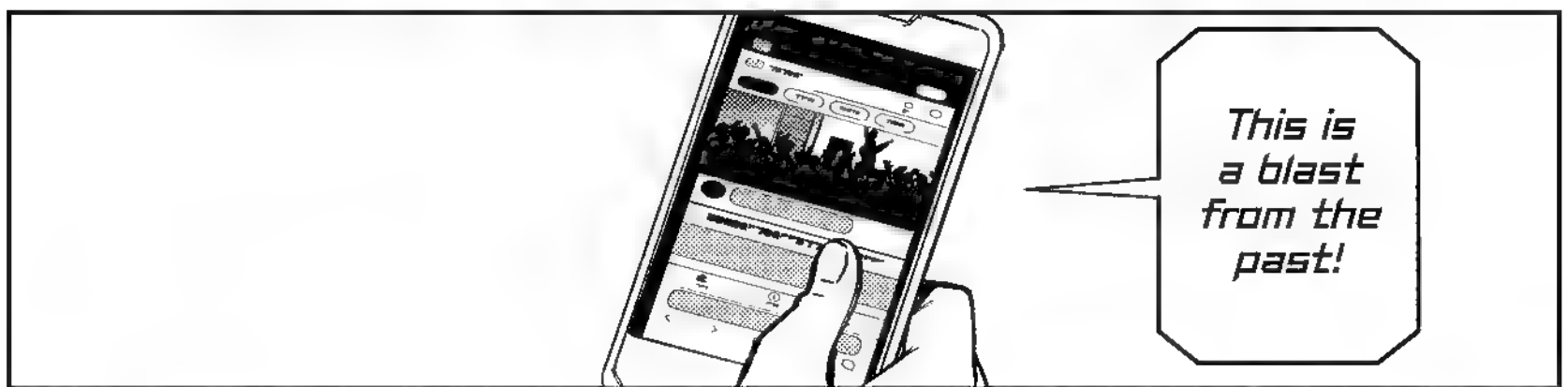


AZALEA IS GOING TO  
PERFORM AZALEA'S VERY  
OWN "THE WIND'S ROCK!"





**"THE  
WIND'S  
ROCK!!"**





...I WAS  
JUST REMEM-  
BERING...

JANG JANG JANG JANG JALANG  
=" = " = " = " = " + =!

YEAH...

RIGHT?  
IT'S LIKE  
WE'VE  
GOT REAL  
TALENT!


WE CAN  
TOTALLY  
HIT UP  
BUDOKAN!

THAT WAS  
A GOOD  
ONE!

FWIP

YEAH!

I WROTE  
LYRICS,  
TOO. WANNA  
SEE?



FORGET ABOUT  
THE BUDOKAN,  
YOU SHOULD BE  
EMBARRASSED  
TO PLAY THAT  
GARBAGE AT  
A SCHOOL  
FESTIVAL!

YOU  
GUYS SUCK!  
I CAN'T CREATE  
ART WITH ALL  
THIS NOISE  
POLLUTION.

Squish!

UNDERSTOOD?



THE  
BEATLES!

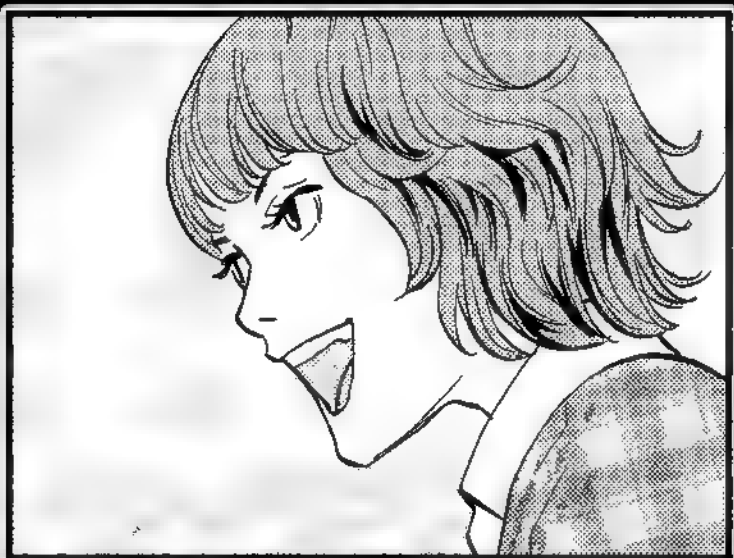
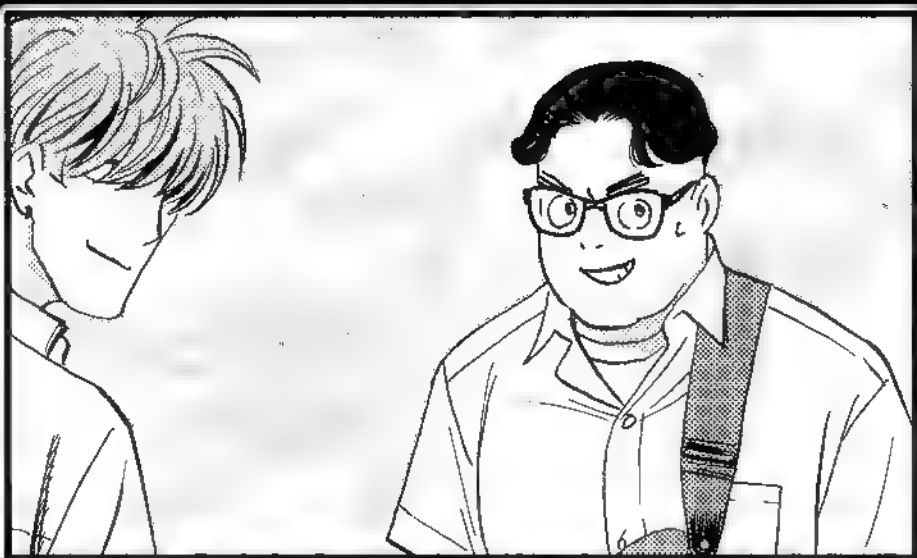
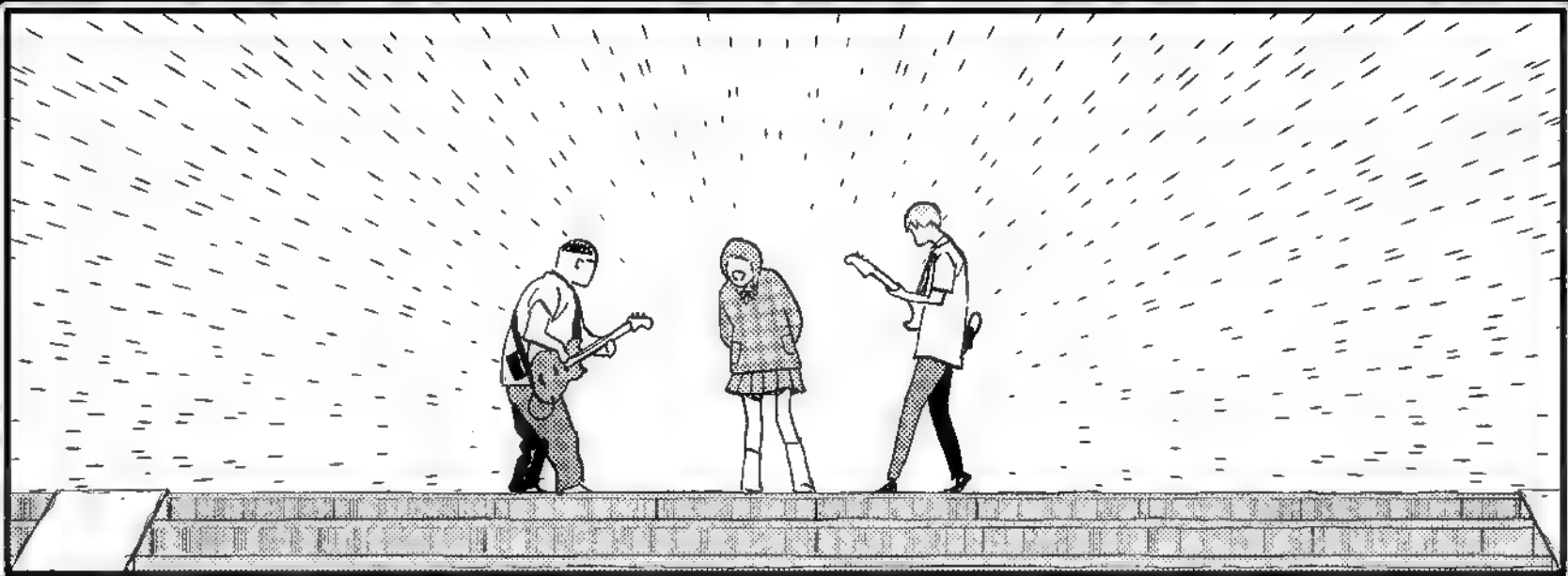
WHAT?!  
YOU WANNA  
FIGHT,  
HUH?!











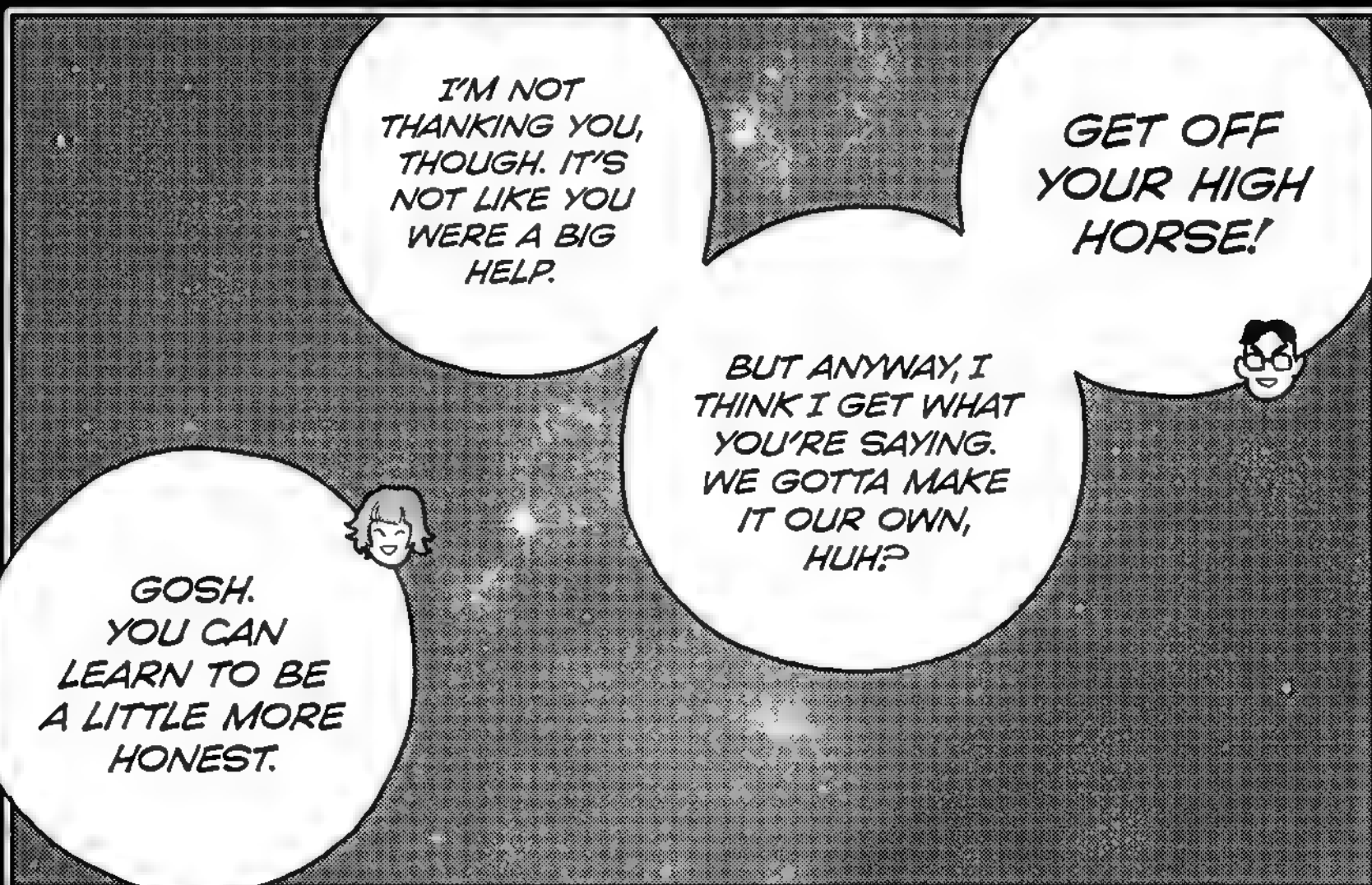


YOU DON'T  
RESPECT THE  
ORIGINAL  
MUSIC AT ALL.



I'LL SING  
IT MY WAY.

I DO.  
BUT HEY, I'M  
SINGING, SO  
THIS MAKES IT  
MY SONG.



I'M NOT  
THANKING YOU,  
THOUGH. IT'S  
NOT LIKE YOU  
WERE A BIG  
HELP.

GET OFF  
YOUR HIGH  
HORSE!

BUT ANYWAY, I  
THINK I GET WHAT  
YOU'RE SAYING.  
WE GOTTA MAKE  
IT OUR OWN,  
HUH?

GOSH.  
YOU CAN  
LEARN TO BE  
A LITTLE MORE  
HONEST.

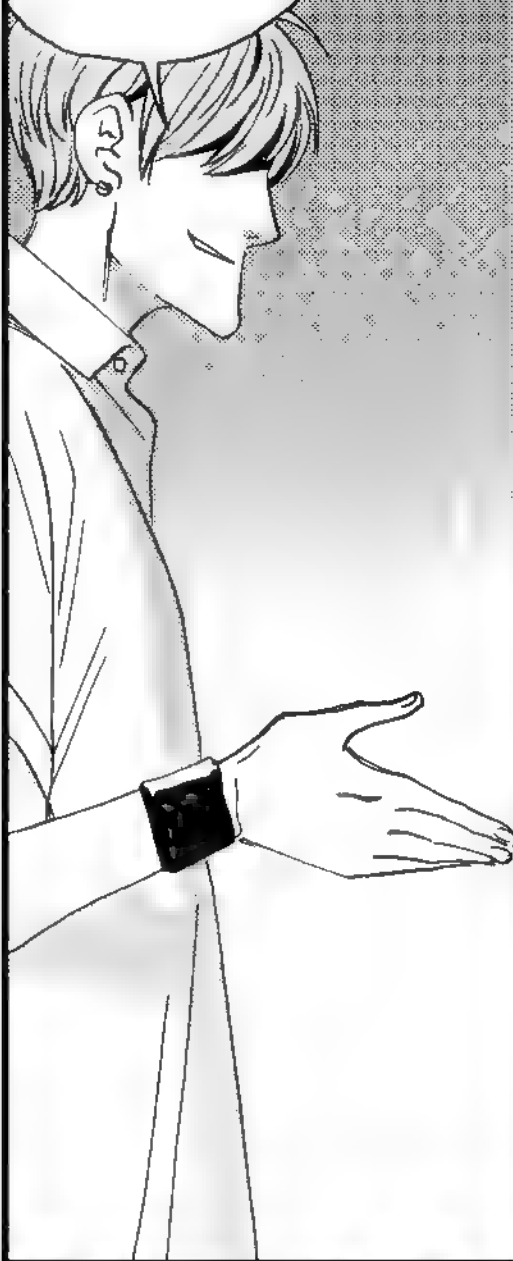


NANBO.  
SAME WITH  
ME. I WANNA  
BECOME A  
MUSICIAN.



HIGASHI-  
YAMA.

MY DREAM  
IS TO MAKE  
A LIVING  
OUT OF MY  
MUSIC.



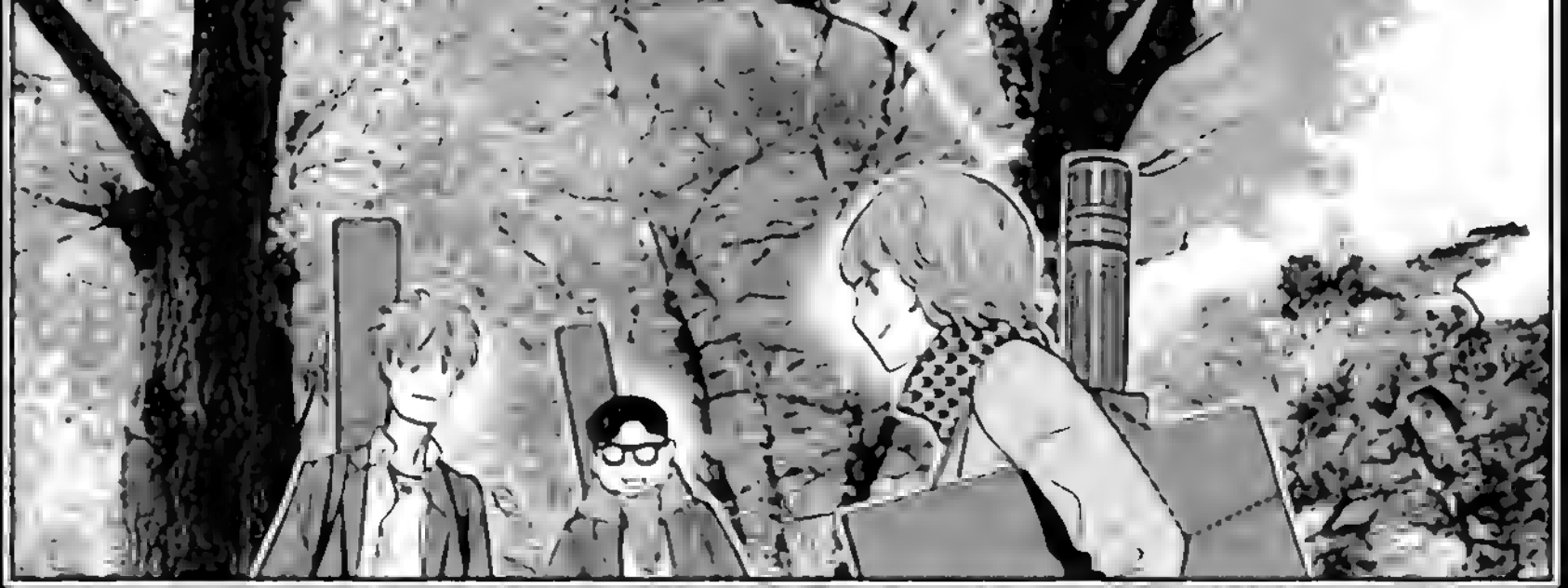
MY  
NAME'S  
FIONA  
NORTH-  
MORE.

I'M ON  
EXCHANGE  
FROM THE  
STATES.



MY DREAM IS  
TO BECOME AN  
ILLUSTRATOR.







LET'S MAKE SURE  
THAT WE'VE ALL  
REACHED OUR  
DREAMS THE NEXT  
TIME WE MEET.

成田国際空港  
Narita Airport Terminal 1

SURE, BUT  
IT'S NOT  
GONNA BE  
CHEAP.

ONCE WE  
HAVE OUR MAJOR  
DEBUT, WE'LL ASK  
YOU TO DESIGN  
OUR CD JACKET,  
FIONA.

HA HA.

I WASN'T  
GOING TO  
TELL YOU  
THIS...

...



"IT'LL  
REACH YOU  
ONE DAY!"

...BUT  
THESE LYRICS  
ACTUALLY  
HELPED ME  
A LOT.

"THE WIND  
IS ALWAYS  
BLOWING."



YOU TWO KEEP  
ROCKING ON  
IN YOUR OWN  
STYLES.



YOU  
STILL HAVE  
THAT...?



YOU MEAN  
MORE LIKE A  
TYPHOON.

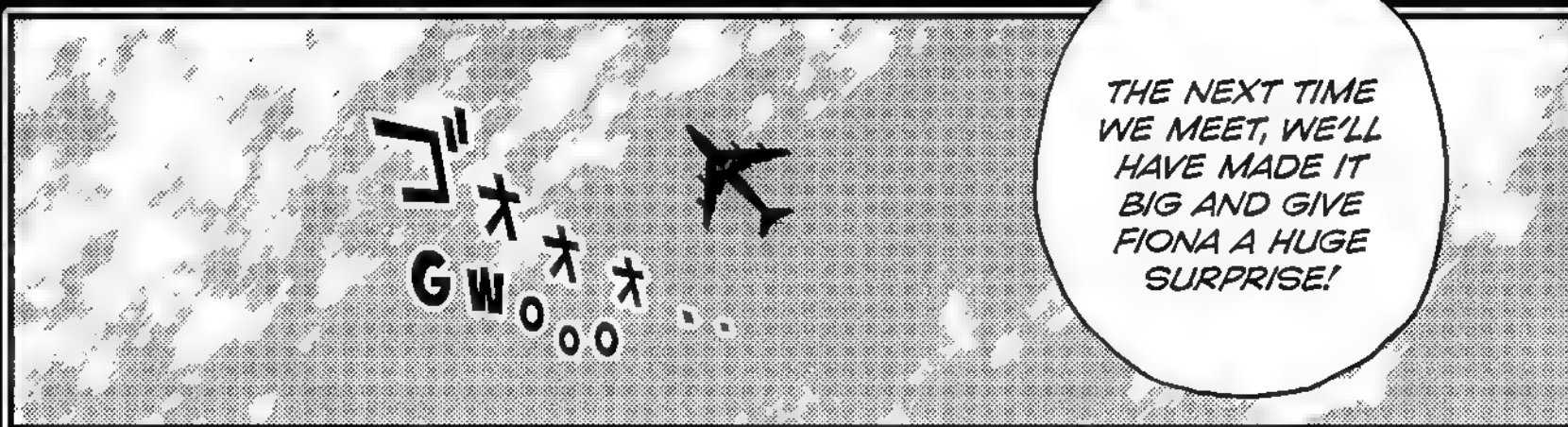
EVEN AT THE  
LAST SECOND,  
SHE'S ALWAYS  
REFRESHING,  
LIKE THE  
WIND.

BUT  
YOU'RE  
NOT  
WRONG...

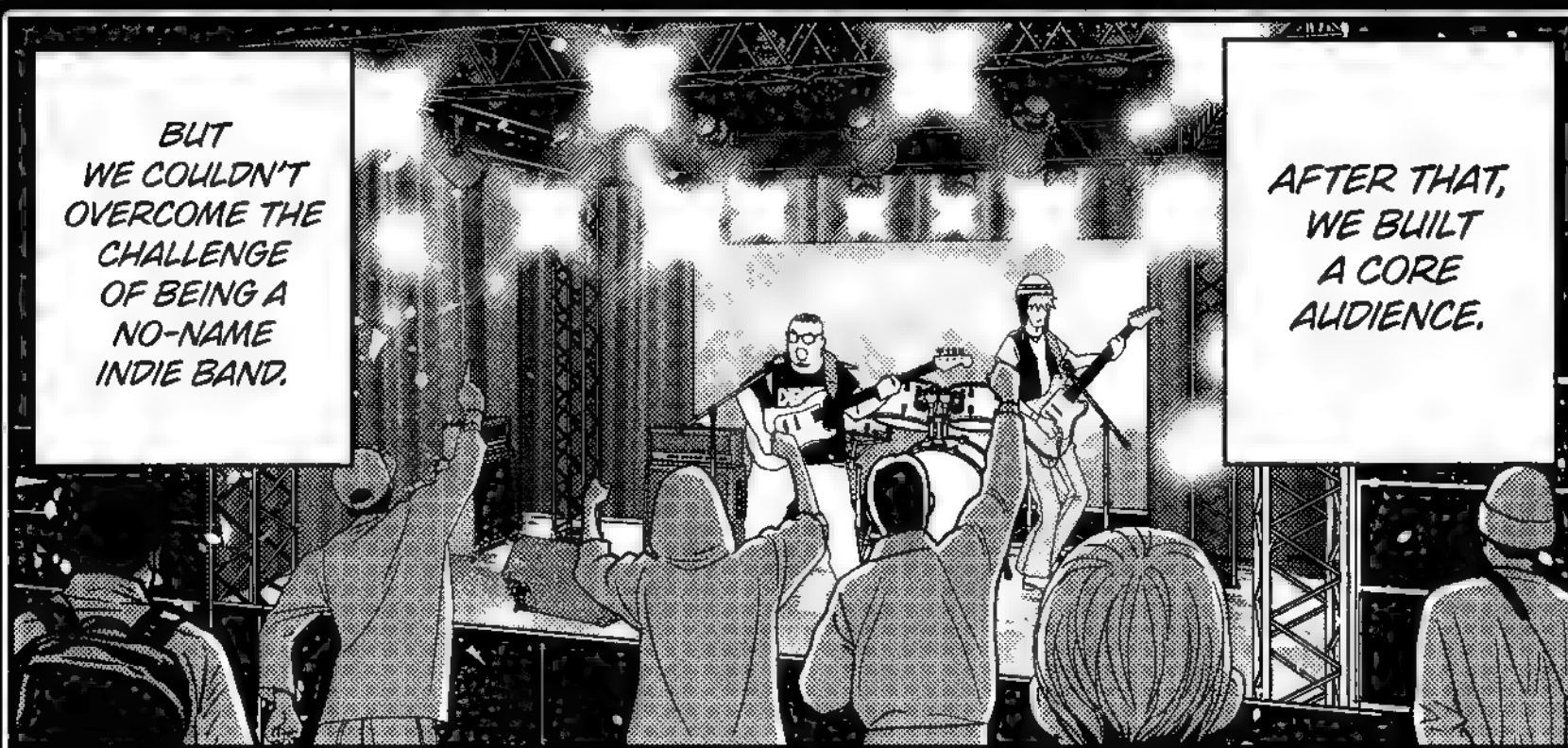


SEE YOU LATER,  
EAST-SOUTH!



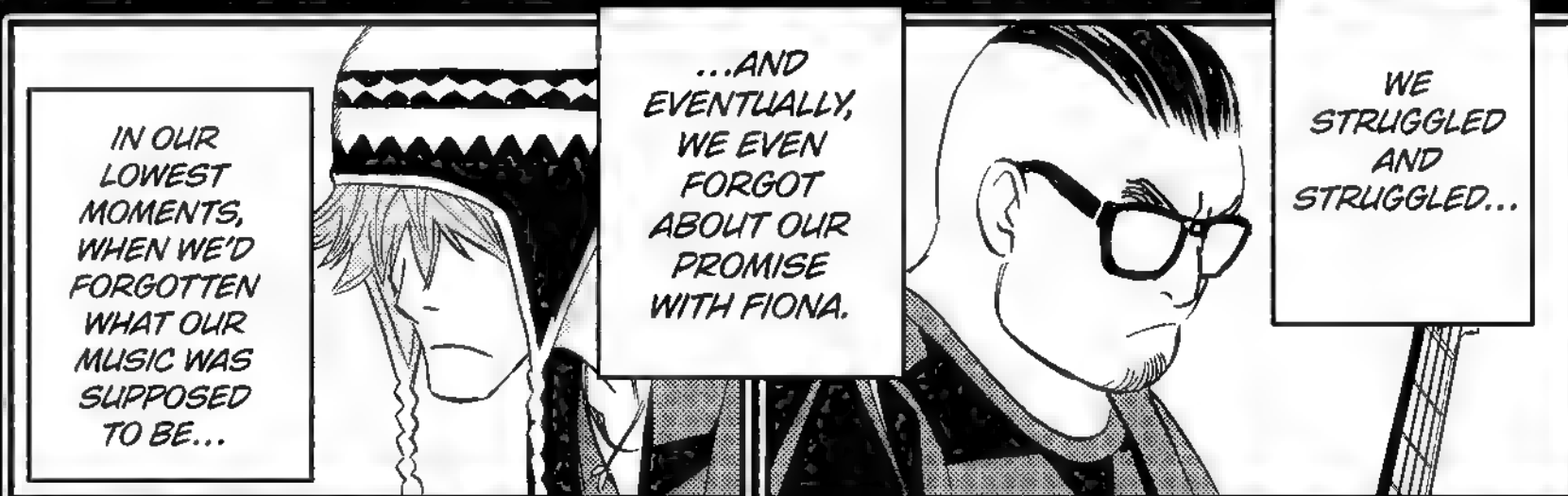


THE NEXT TIME  
WE MEET, WE'LL  
HAVE MADE IT  
BIG AND GIVE  
FIONA A HUGE  
SURPRISE!



BUT  
WE COULDN'T  
OVERCOME THE  
CHALLENGE  
OF BEING A  
NO-NAME  
INDIE BAND.

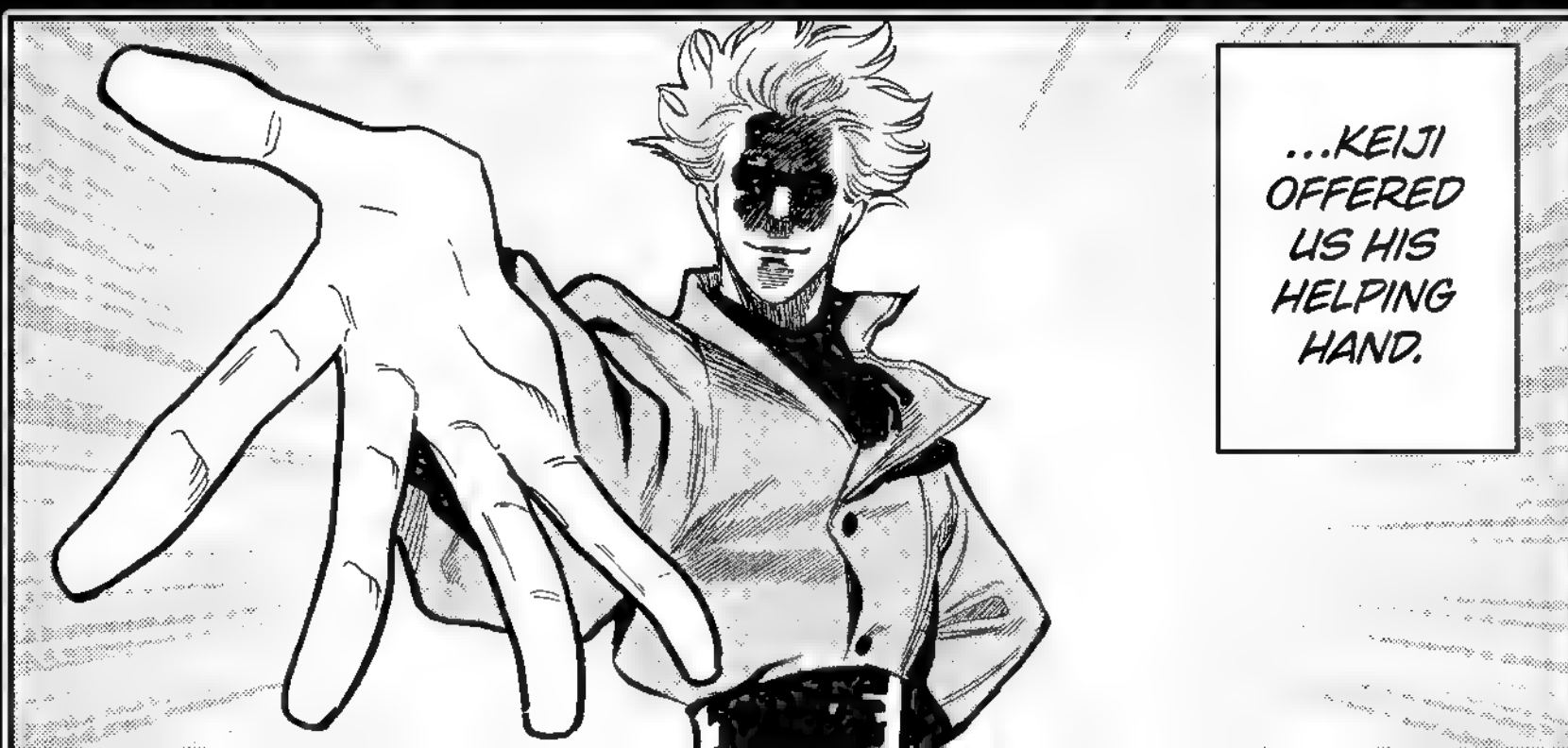
AFTER THAT,  
WE BUILT  
A CORE  
AUDIENCE.



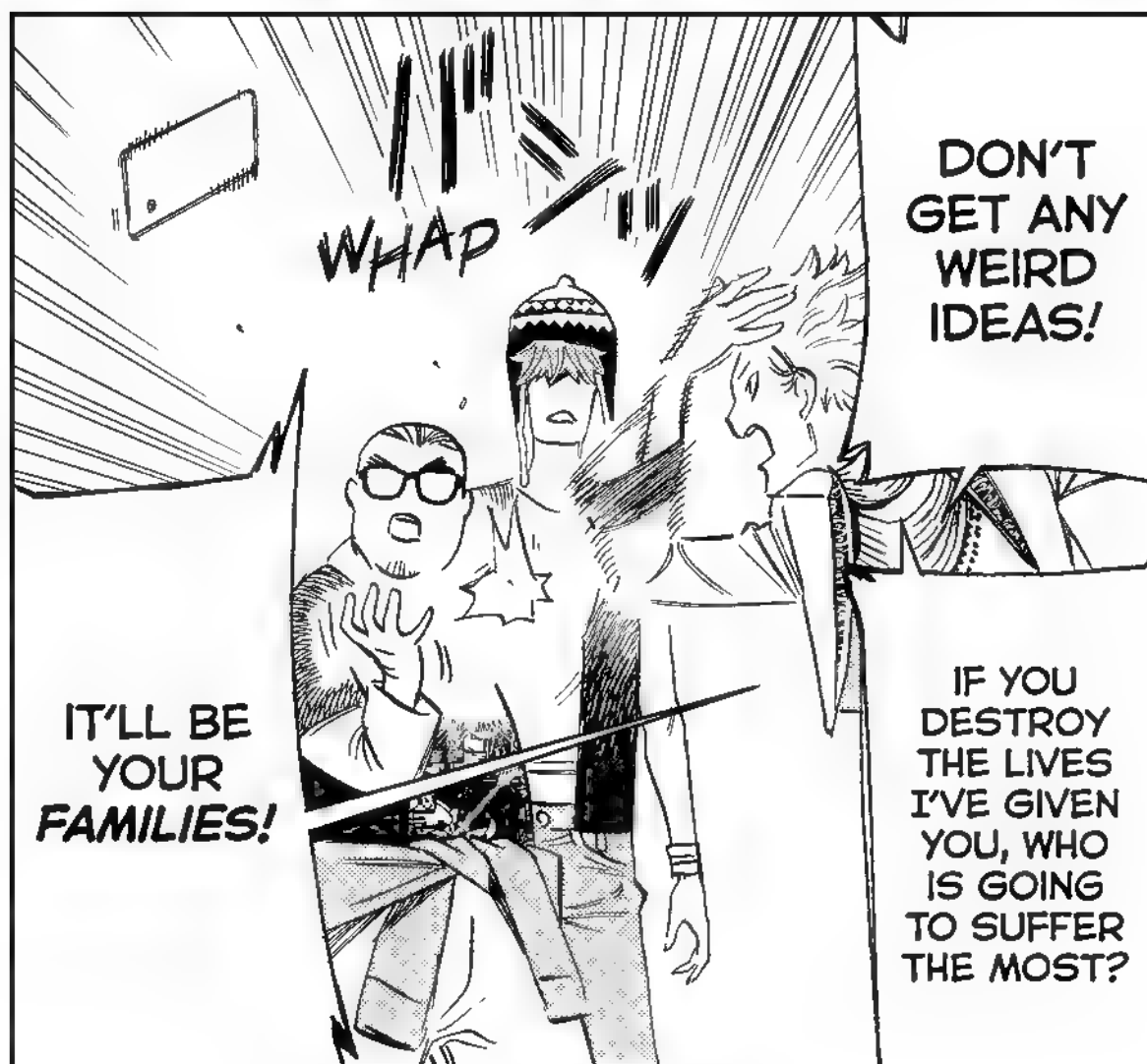
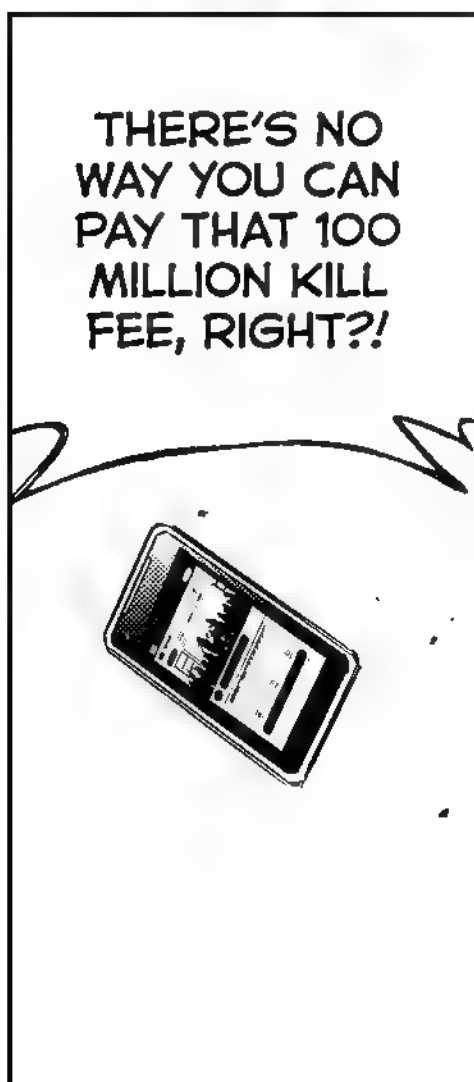
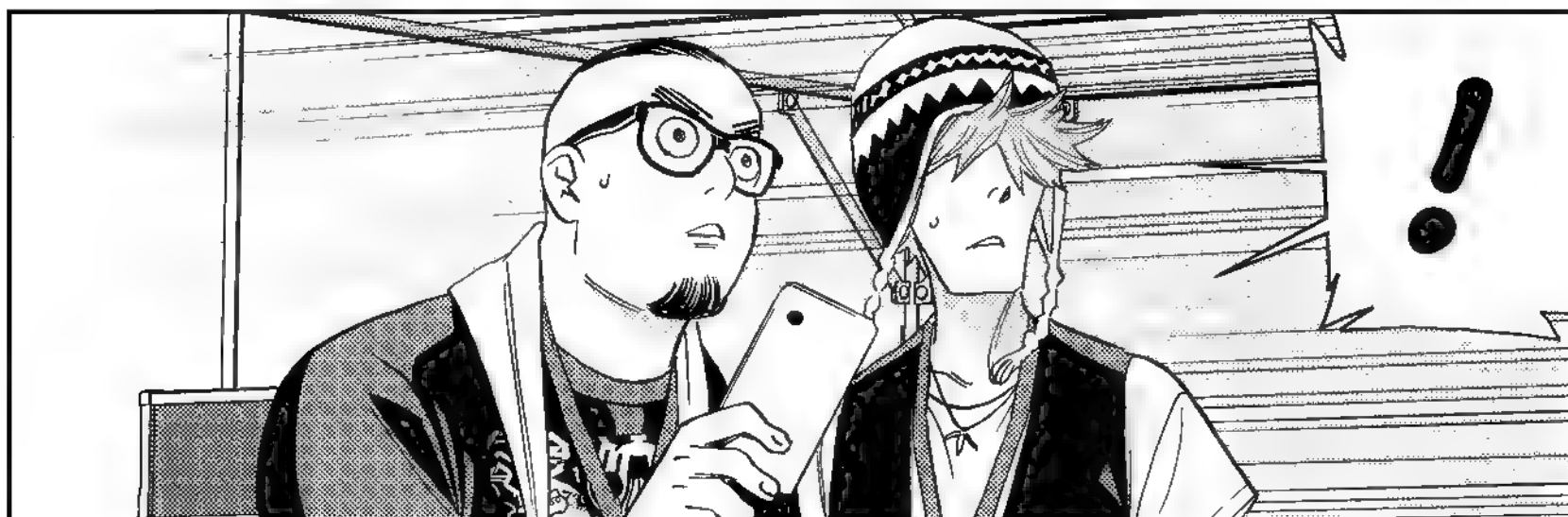
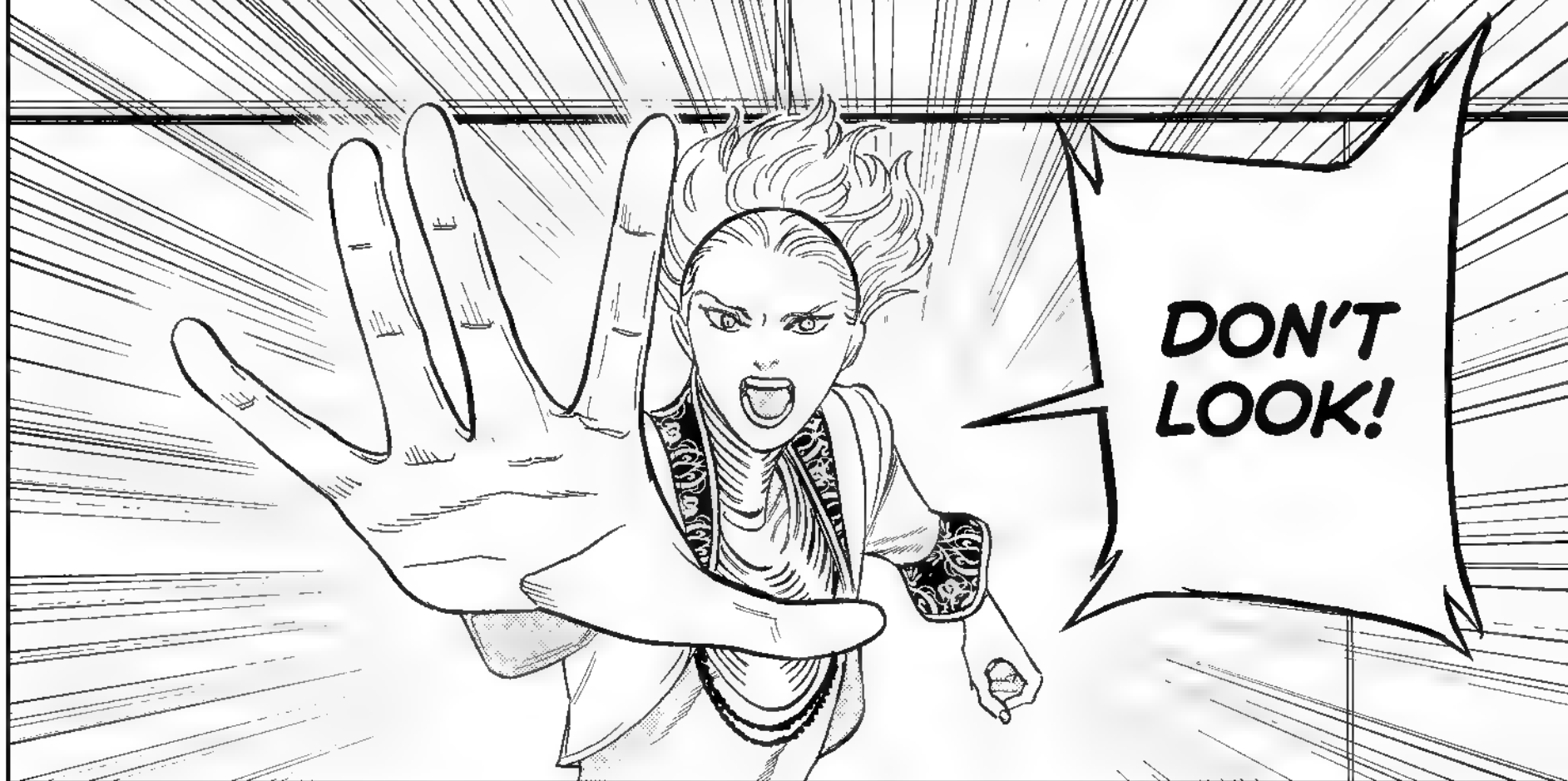
IN OUR  
LOWEST  
MOMENTS,  
WHEN WE'D  
FORGOTTEN  
WHAT OUR  
MUSIC WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE...

...AND  
EVENTUALLY,  
WE EVEN  
FORGOT  
ABOUT OUR  
PROMISE  
WITH FIONA.

WE  
STRUGGLED  
AND  
STRUGGLED...



...KEIJI  
OFFERED  
US HIS  
HELPING  
HAND.







"The wind  
is always  
blowing."



"It'll reach  
you one  
day."

WHAT  
OUR ROCK IS  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE...

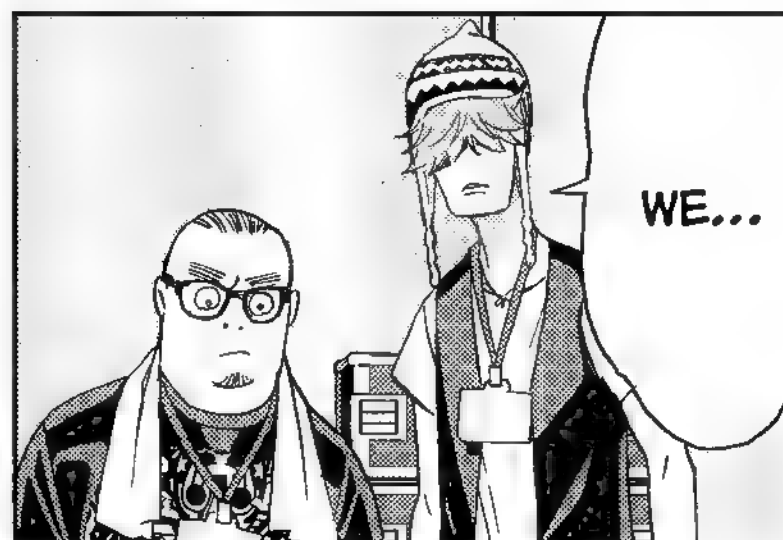
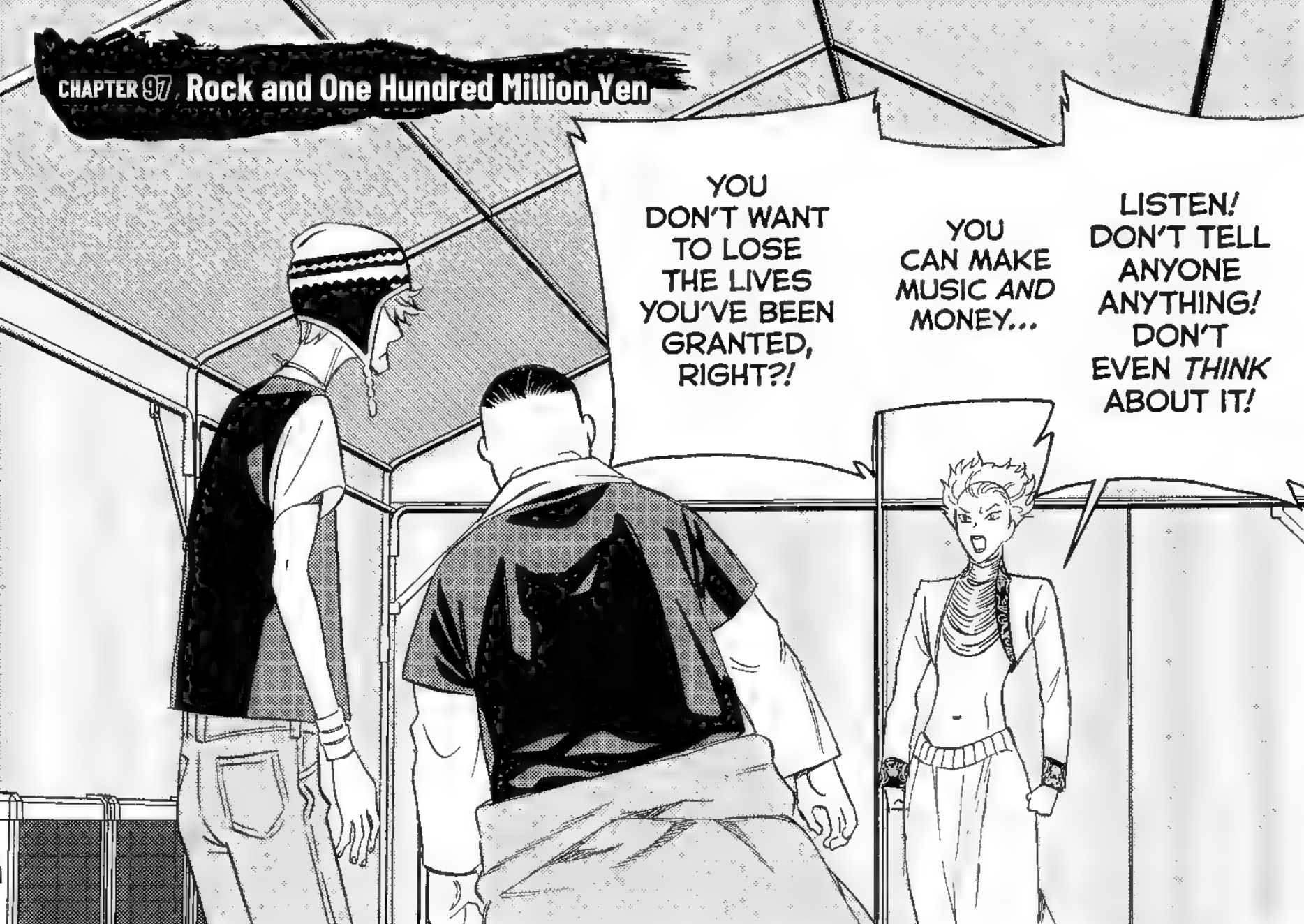
...FORGOT  
WHAT IT WAS  
LIKE...

WE...



42  
604  
1009  
1009

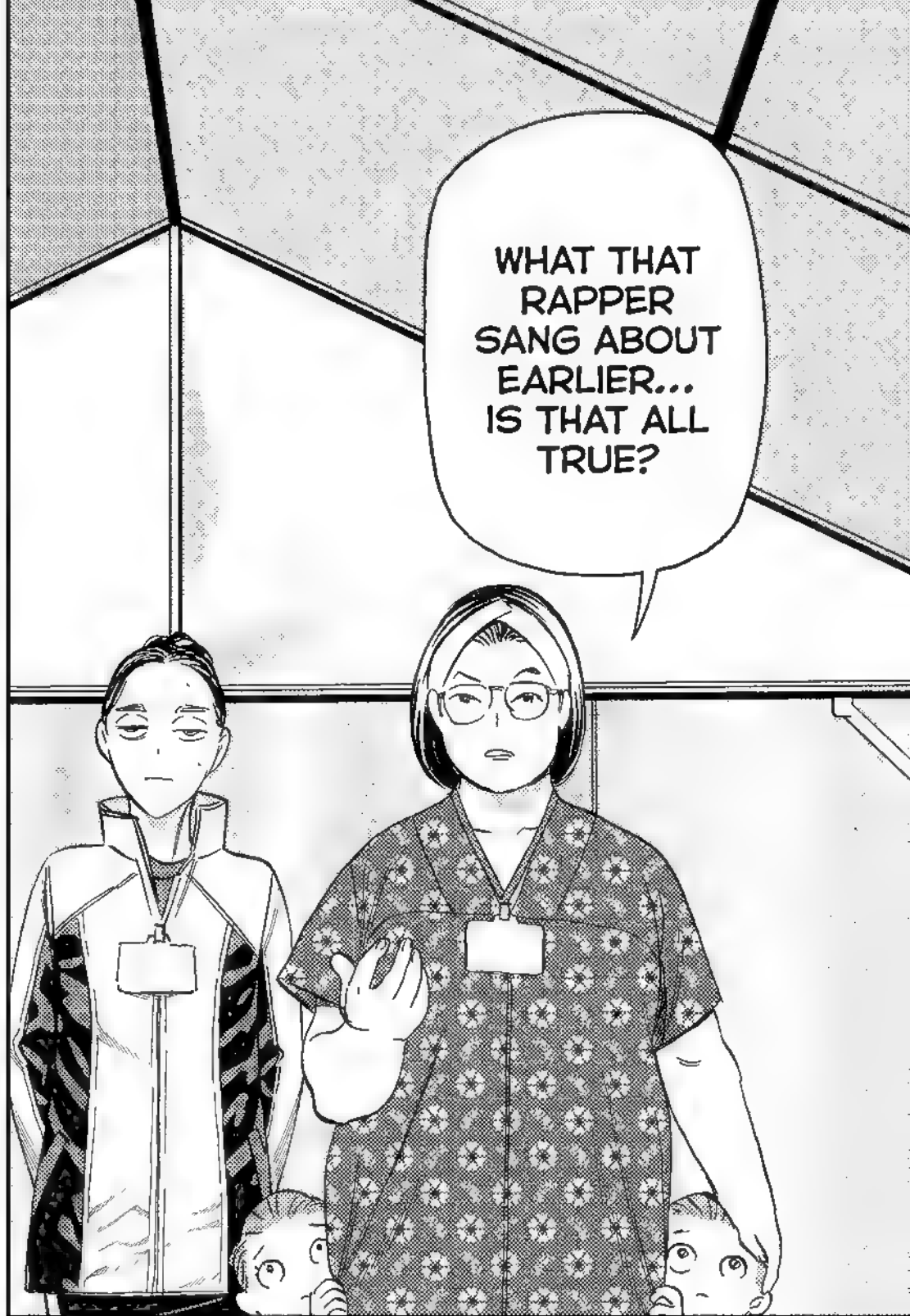




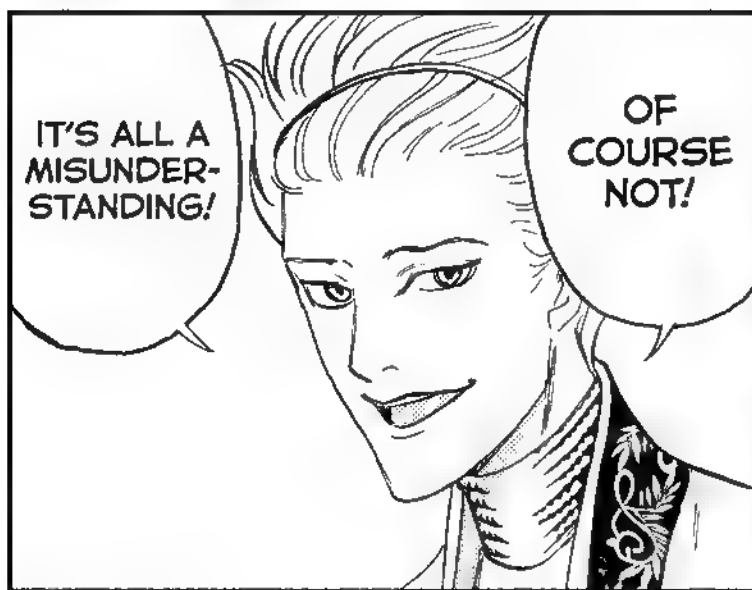


ARE THEY  
REALLY YOUR  
GHOST-  
WRITERS,  
MAEZONO-  
SAN?

I SAW  
THE  
POSTS  
ON THE  
BOARDS,  
TOO...

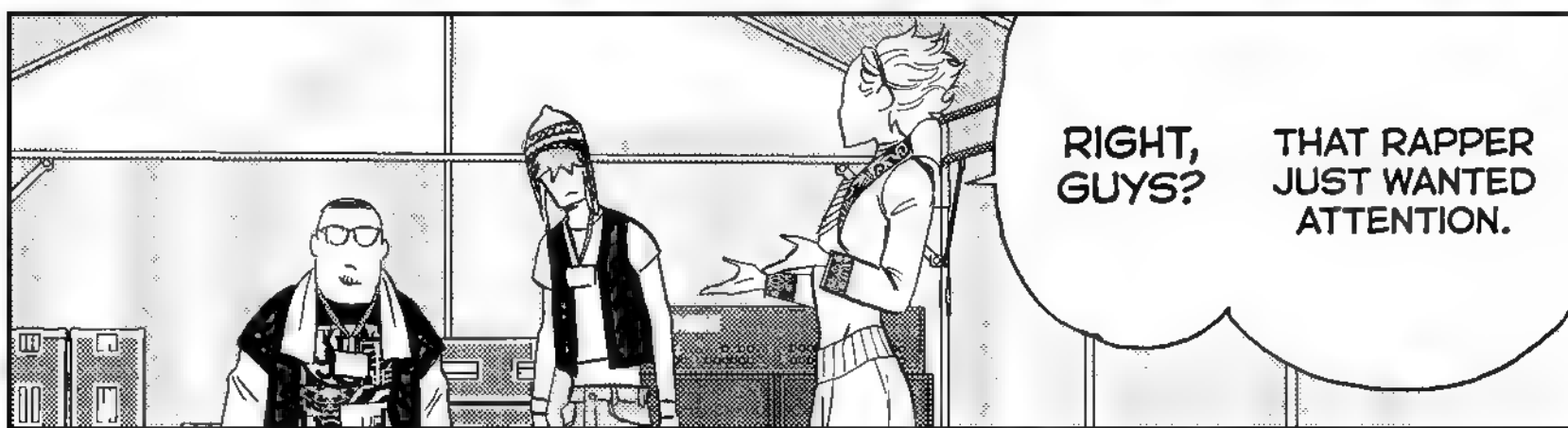


WHAT THAT  
RAPPER  
SANG ABOUT  
EARLIER...  
IS THAT ALL  
TRUE?



IT'S ALL A  
MISUNDER-  
STANDING!

OF  
COURSE  
NOT!

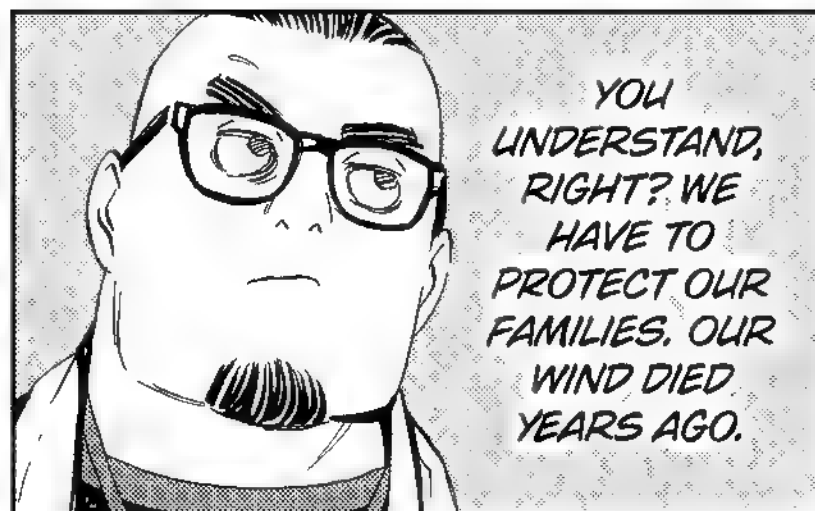


RIGHT,  
GUYS?

THAT RAPPER  
JUST WANTED  
ATTENTION.

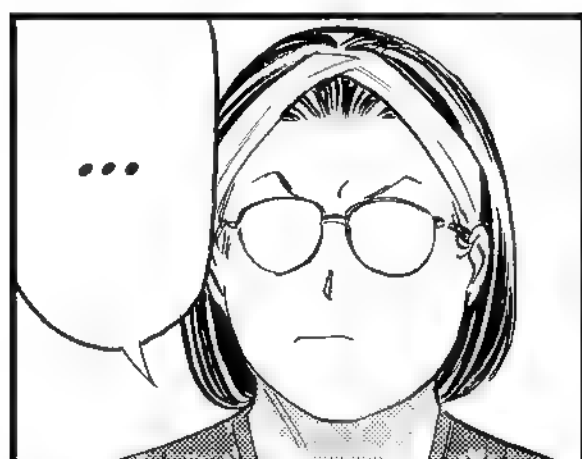
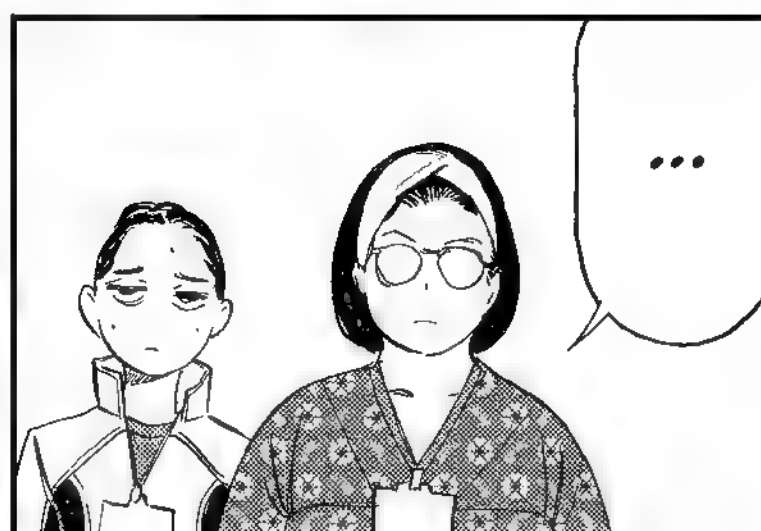


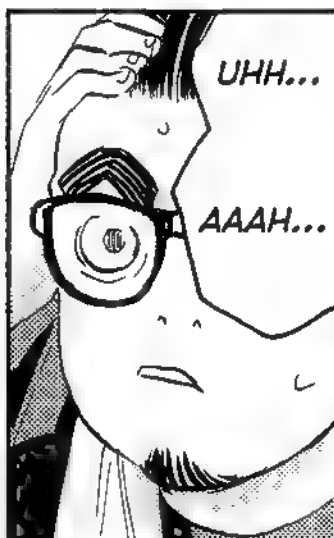
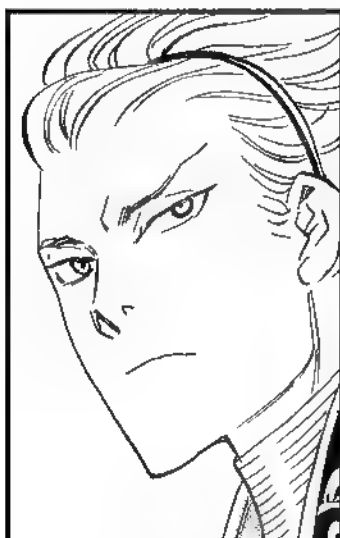
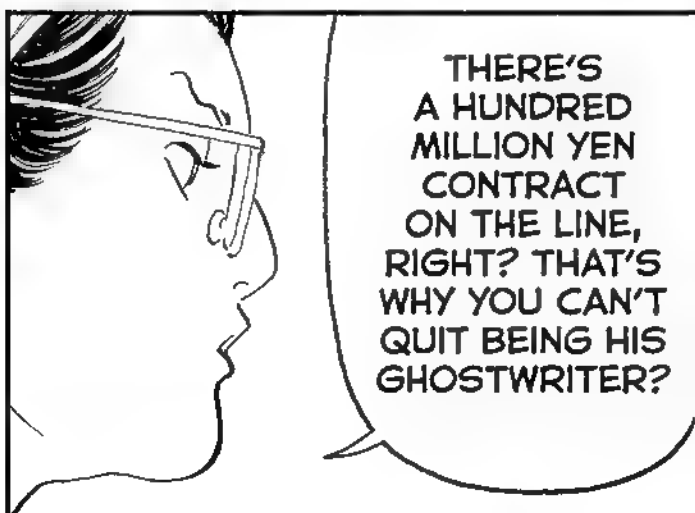
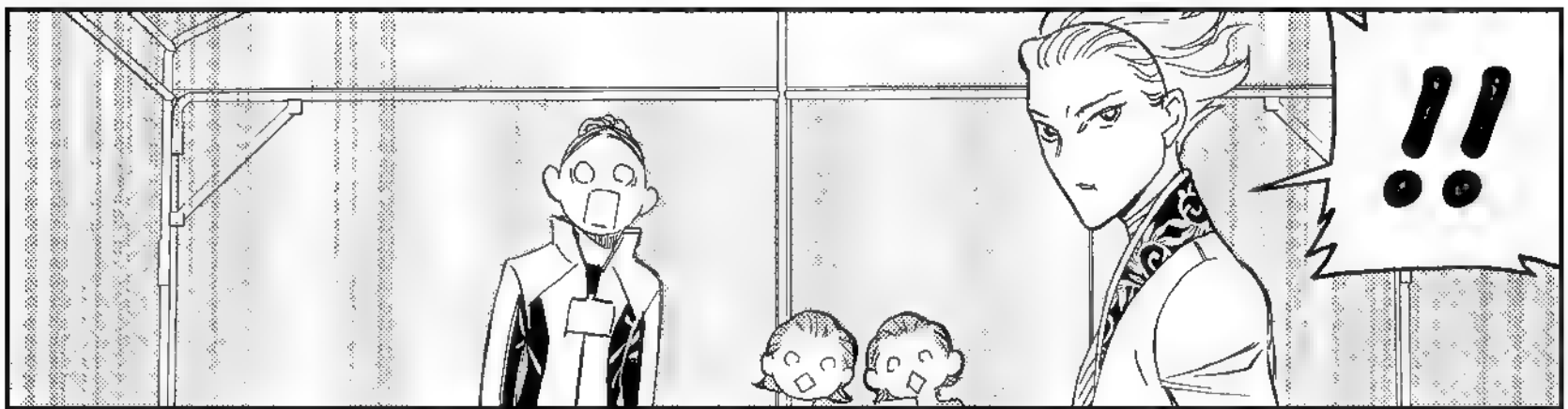
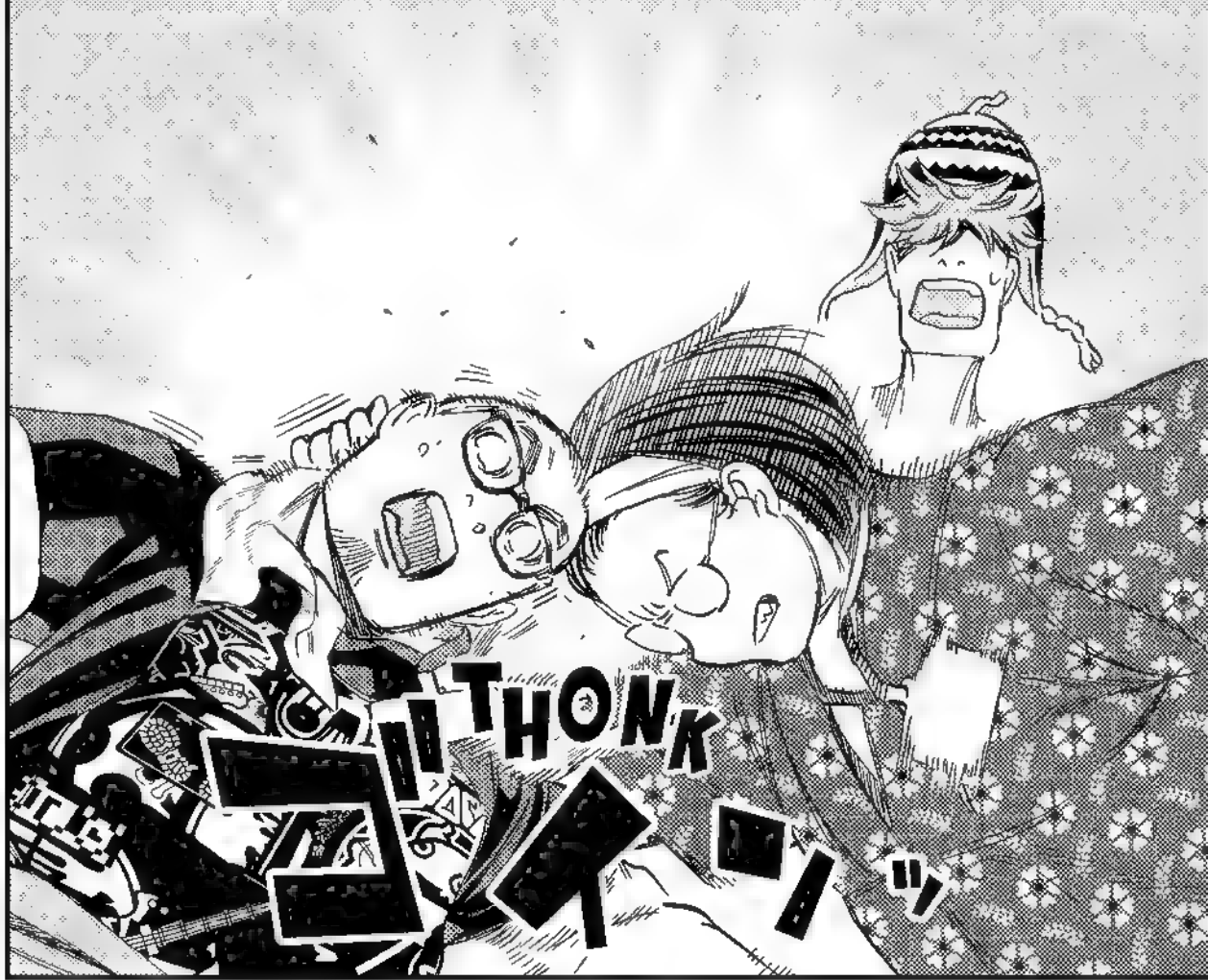
...I  
KNOW...



YOU  
UNDERSTAND,  
RIGHT? WE  
HAVE TO  
PROTECT OUR  
FAMILIES. OUR  
WIND DIED  
YEARS AGO.



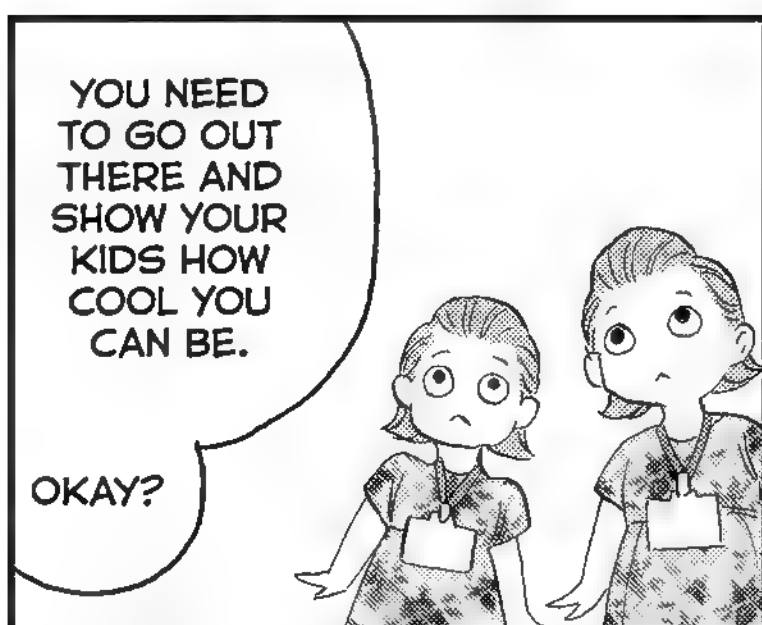








**IT'S  
JUST ONE  
HUNDRED  
MILLION. I  
CAN WORK  
AND PAY  
THAT OFF.**



**YOU NEED  
TO GO OUT  
THERE AND  
SHOW YOUR  
KIDS HOW  
COOL YOU  
CAN BE.**

**OKAY?**



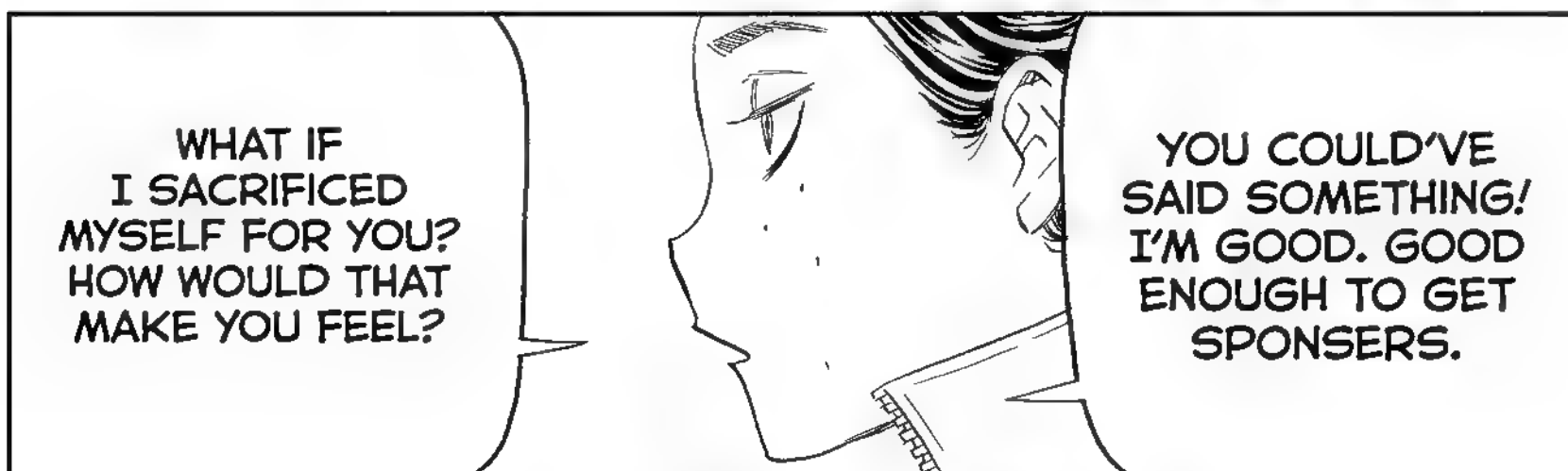
**THE MAN I FELL  
FOR WOULD  
WORK ON HIS  
MUSIC FREELY  
EVEN WHEN THE  
WORLD TRIED  
TO GRIND HIM  
DOWN.**



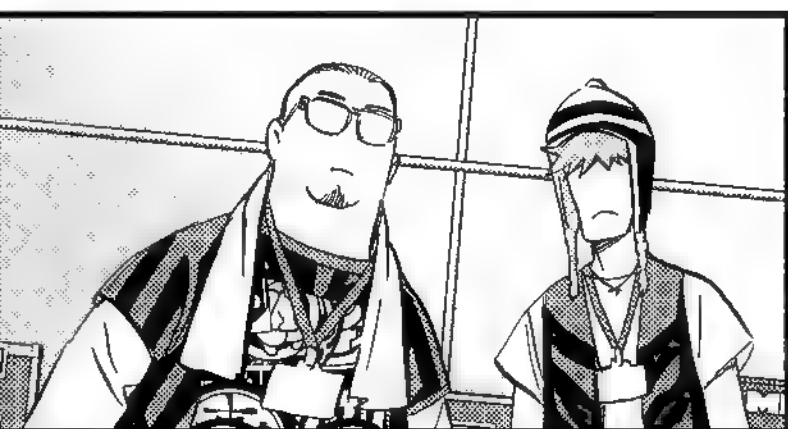
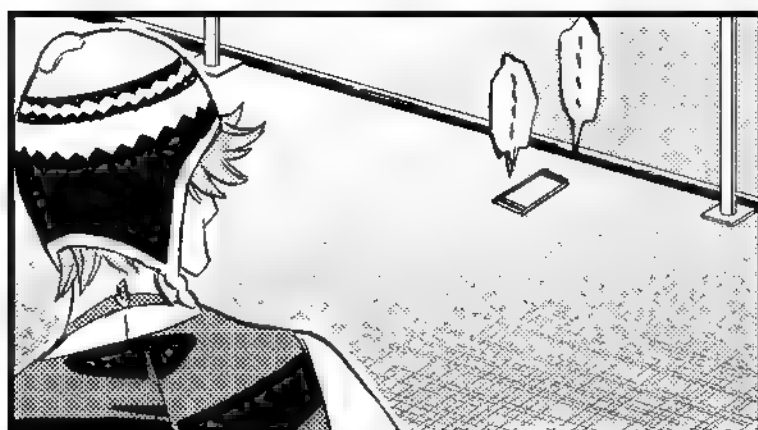
**YOU  
GUYS...**

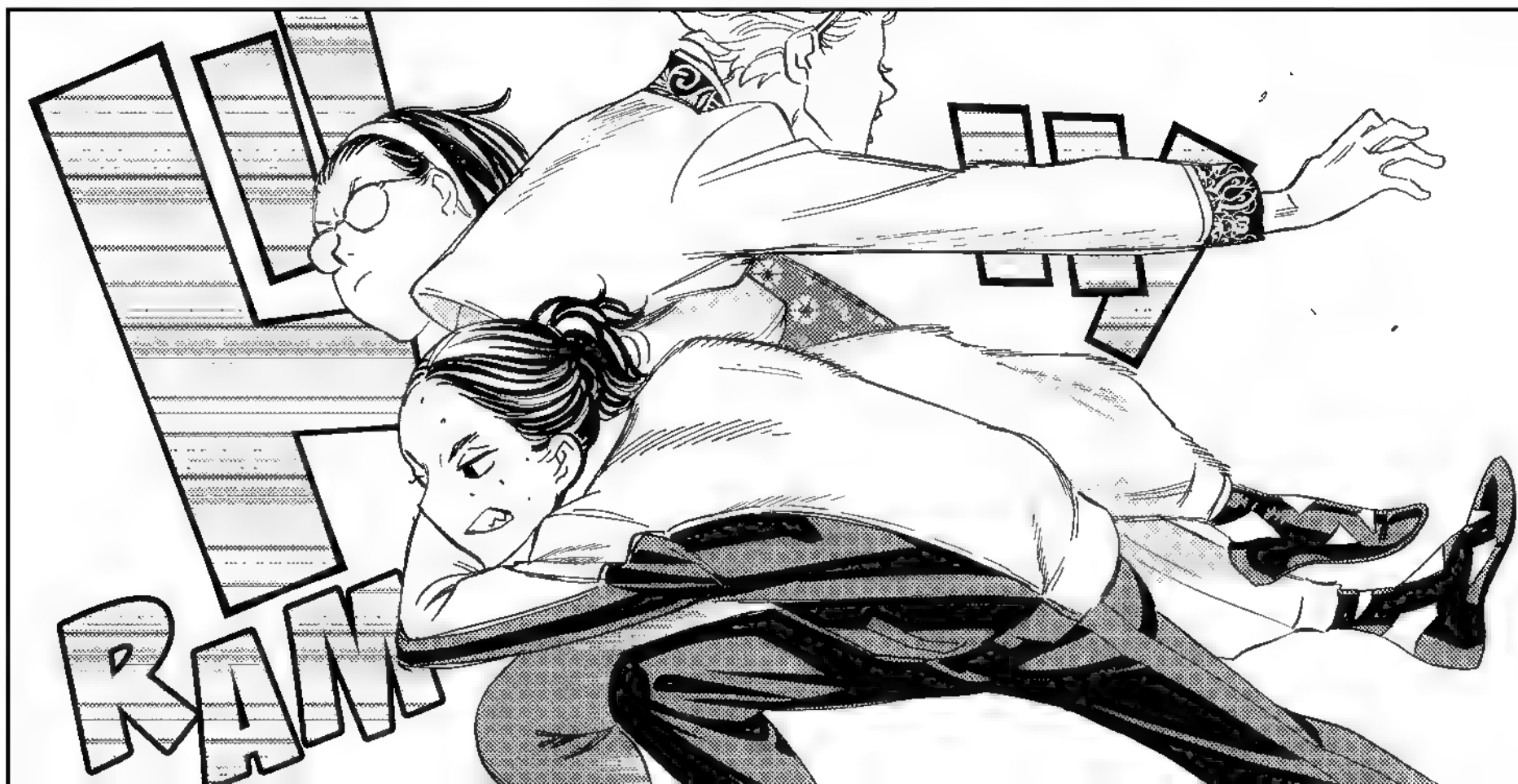
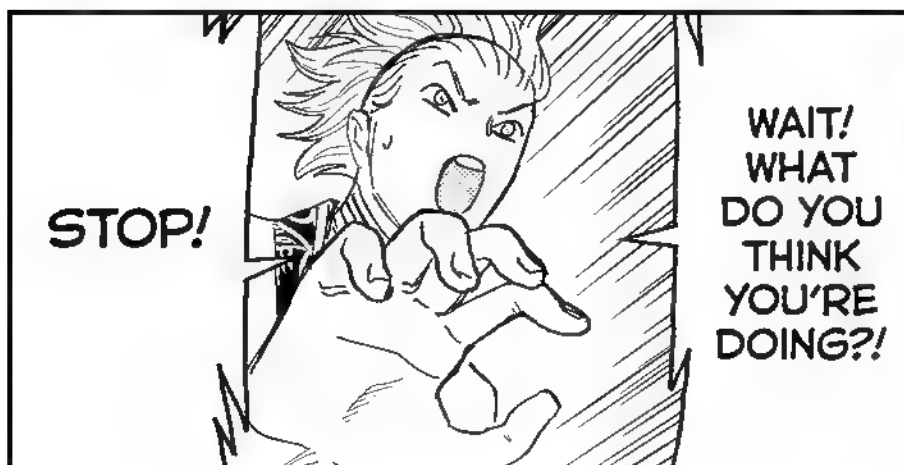


**WE  
WANNA  
SEE  
COOL  
DADDY!**

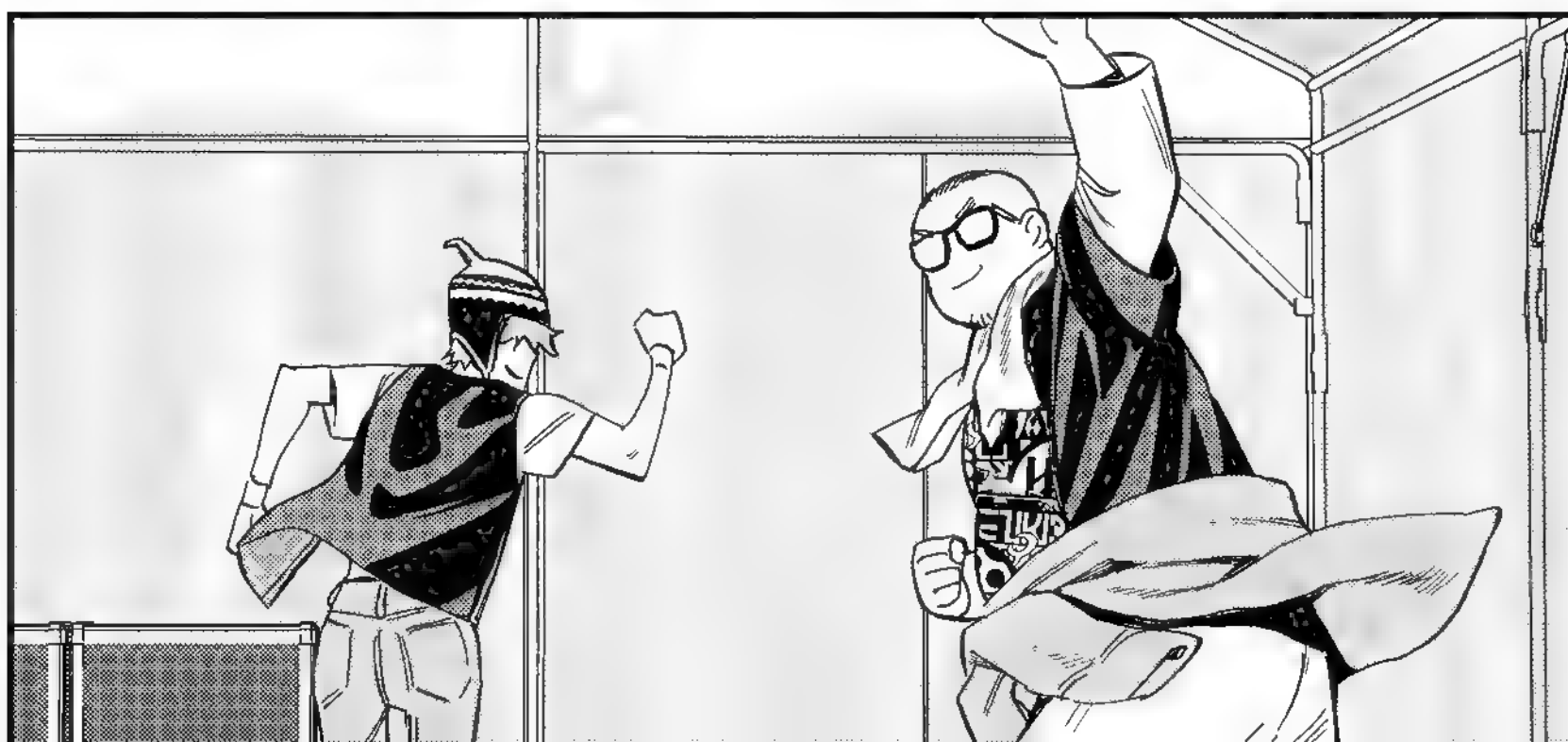


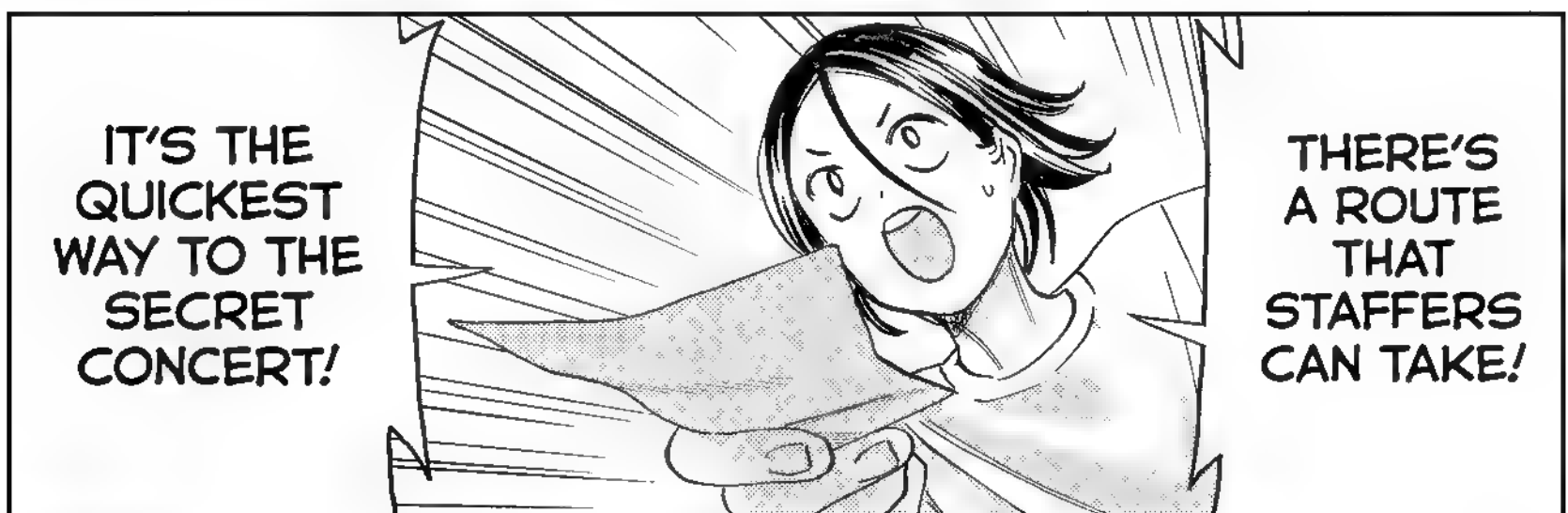
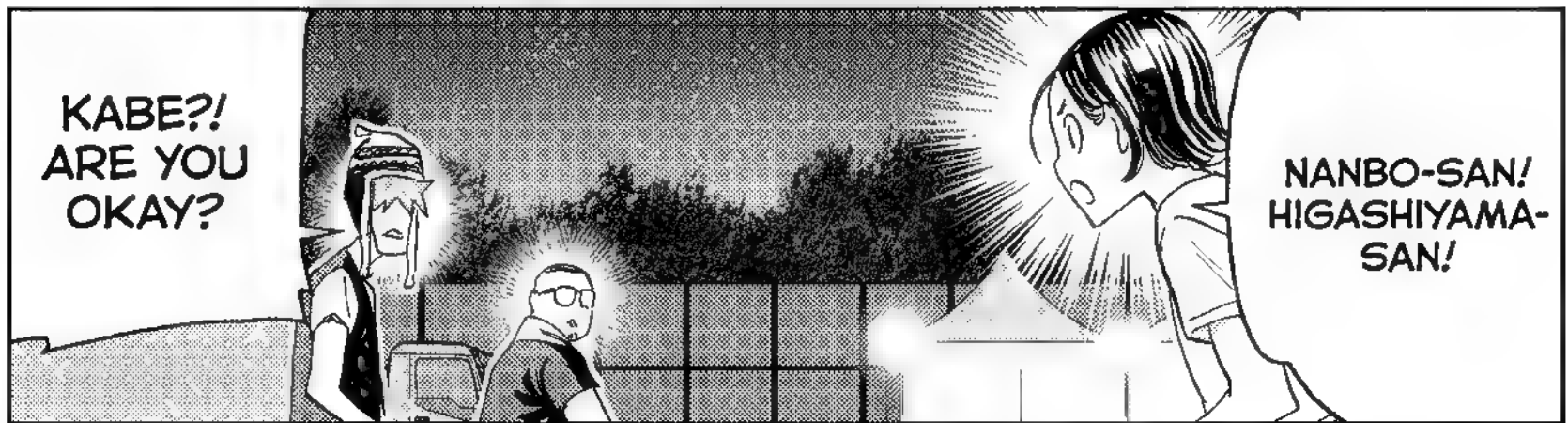
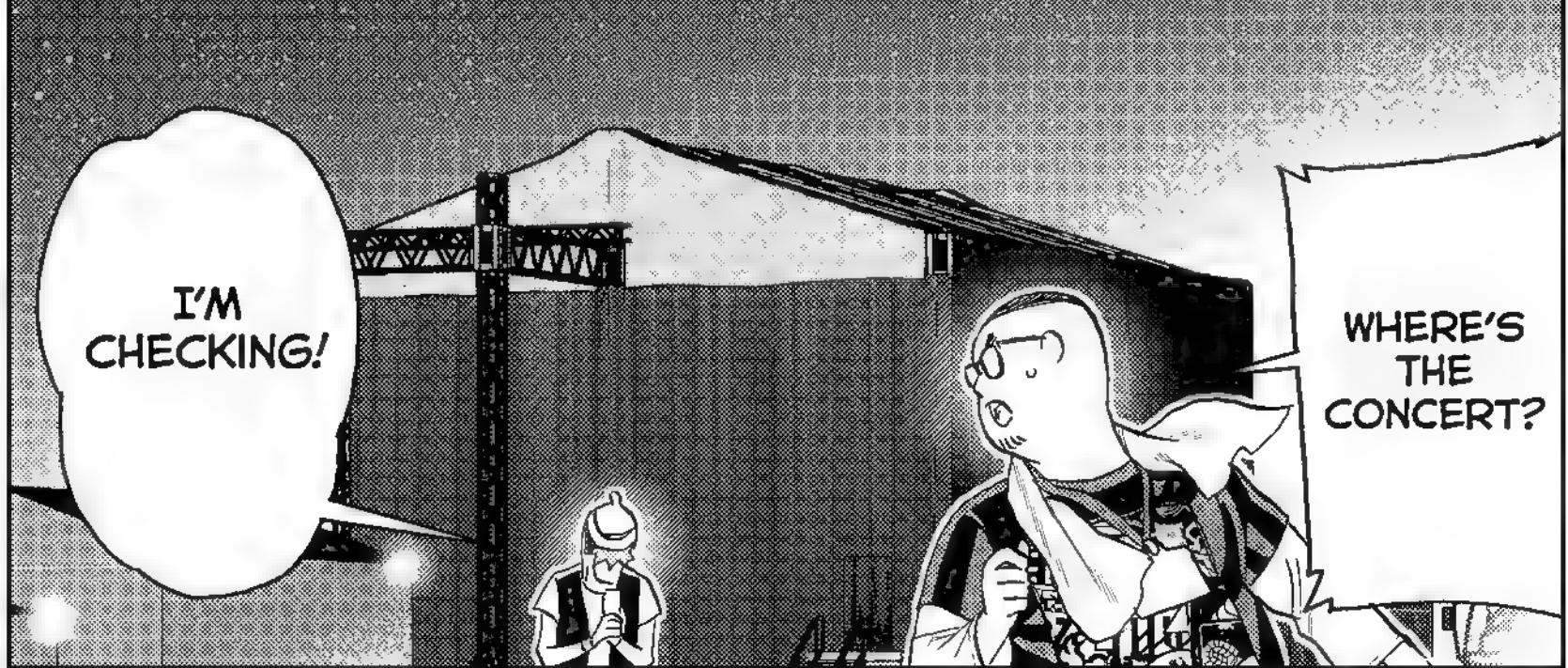




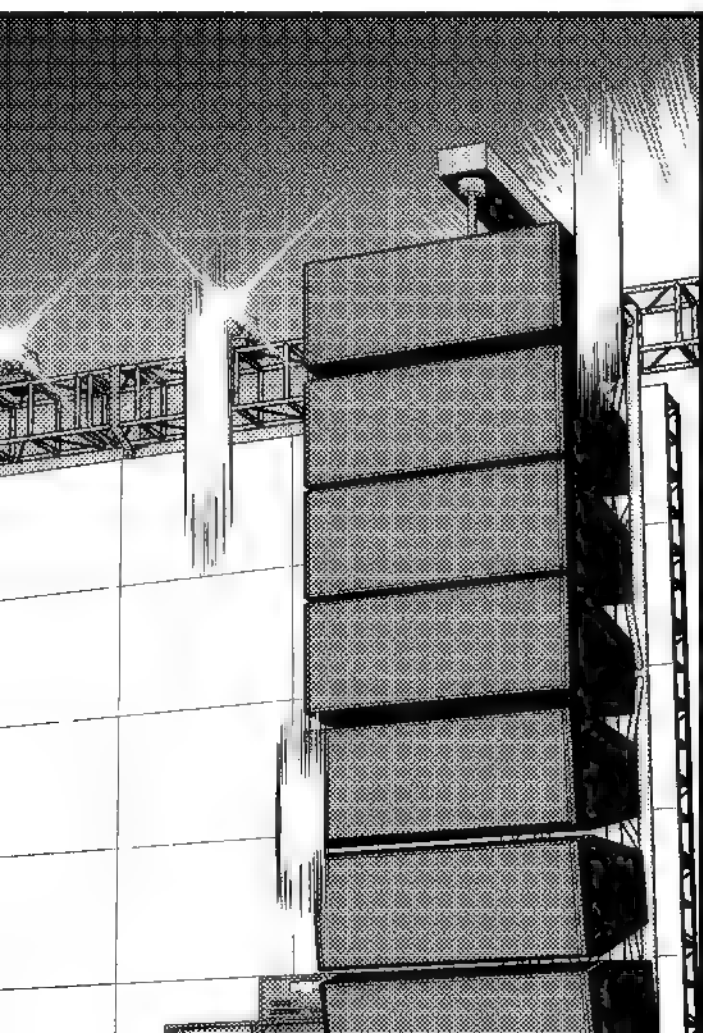
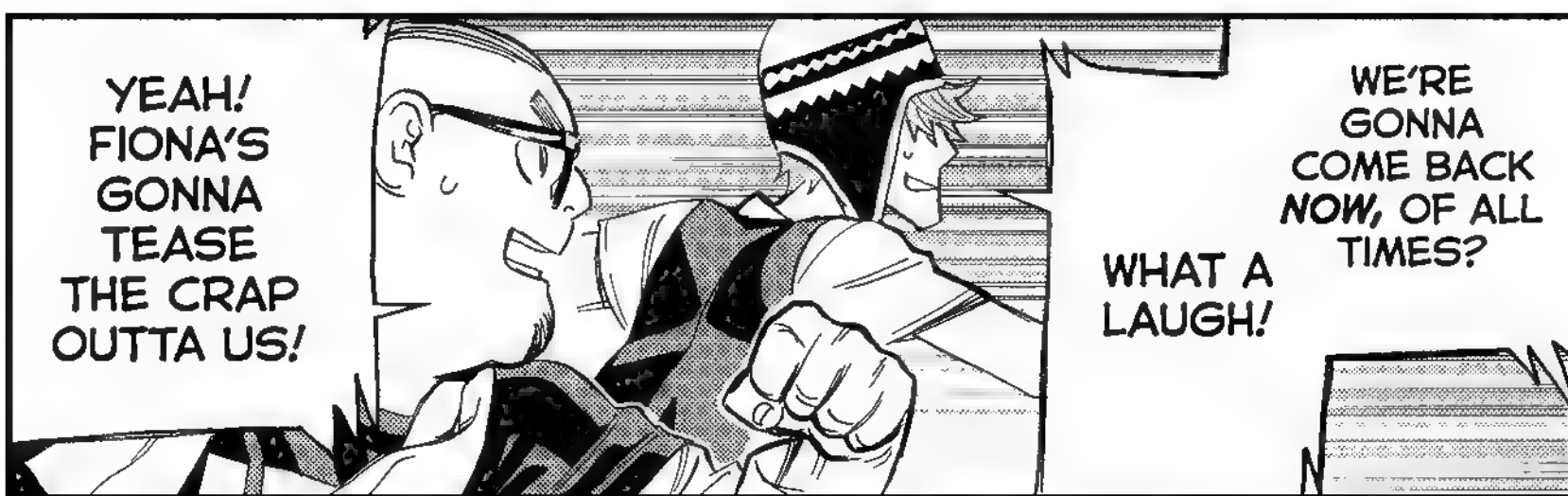
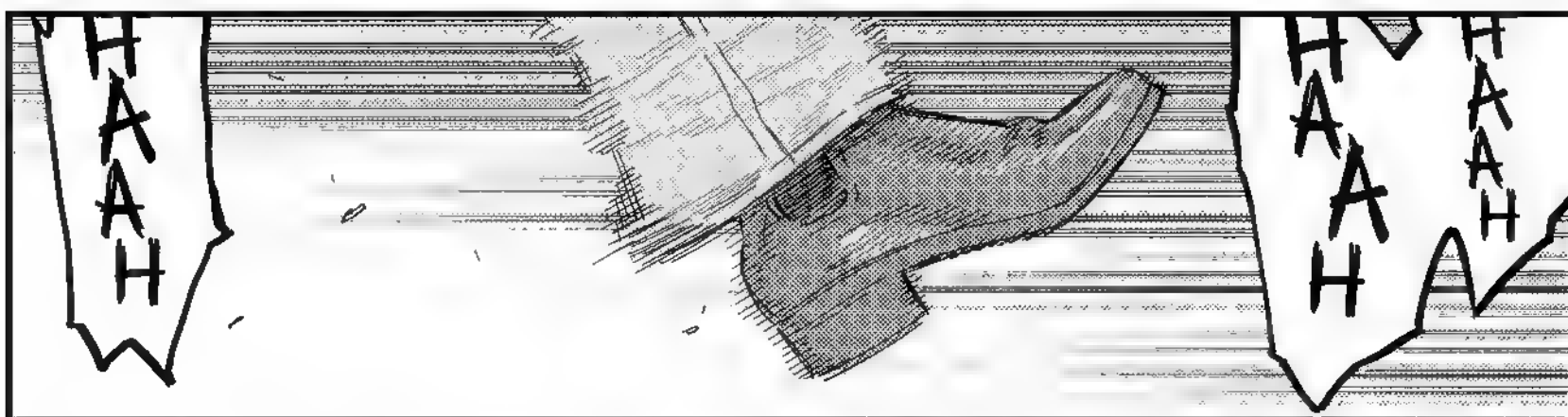








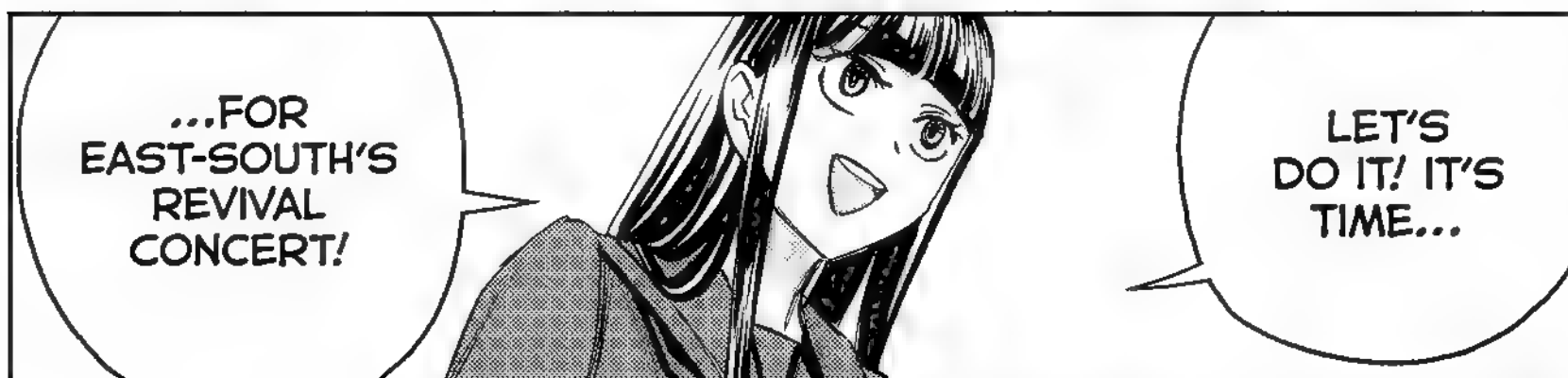












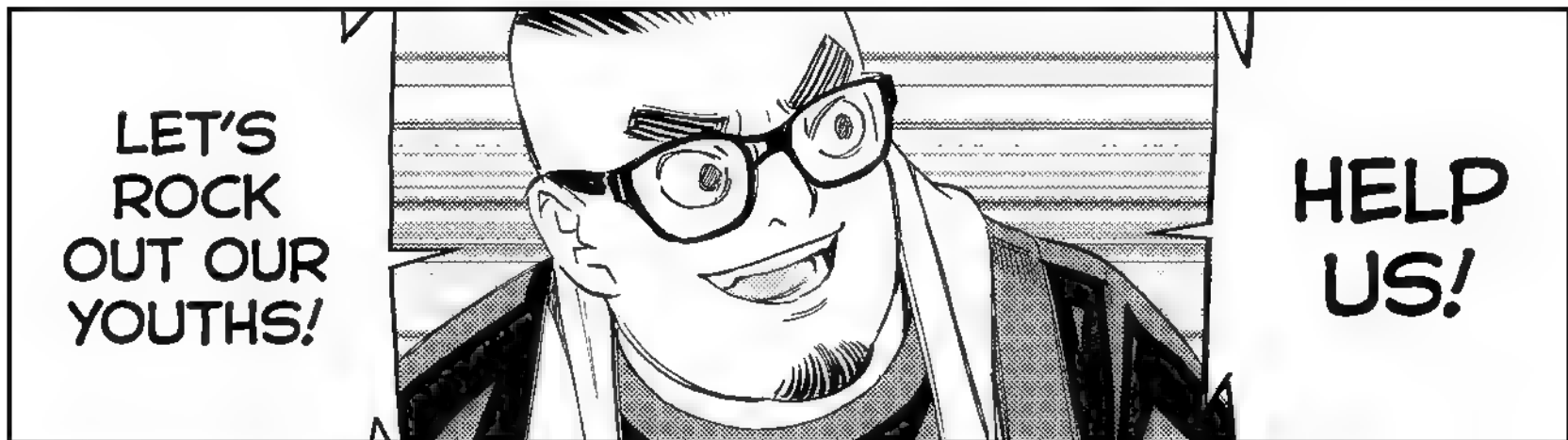






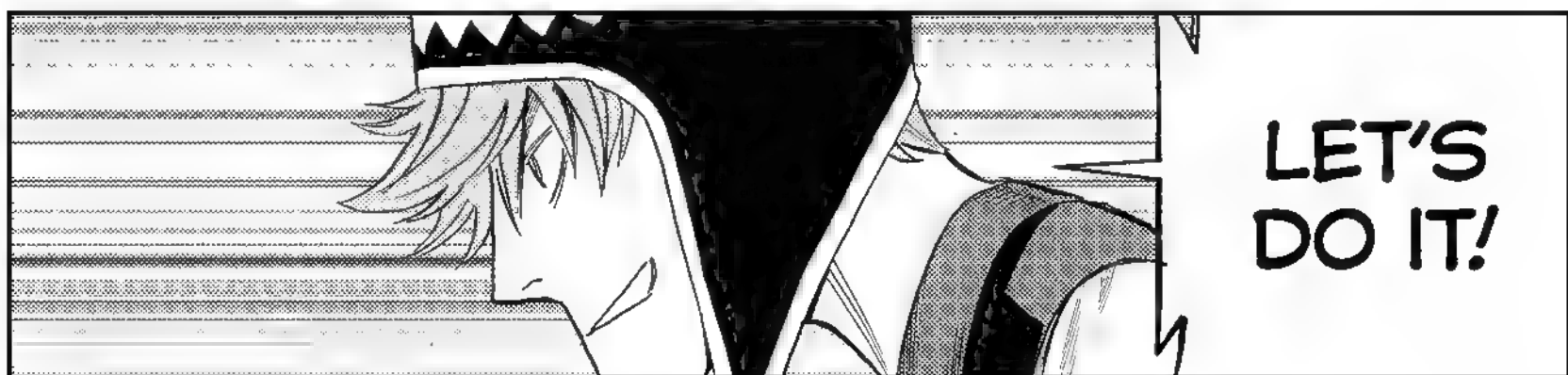
IF I  
GET FOUND  
OUT NOW,  
I'LL BE  
CANCELLED!

SHIT!

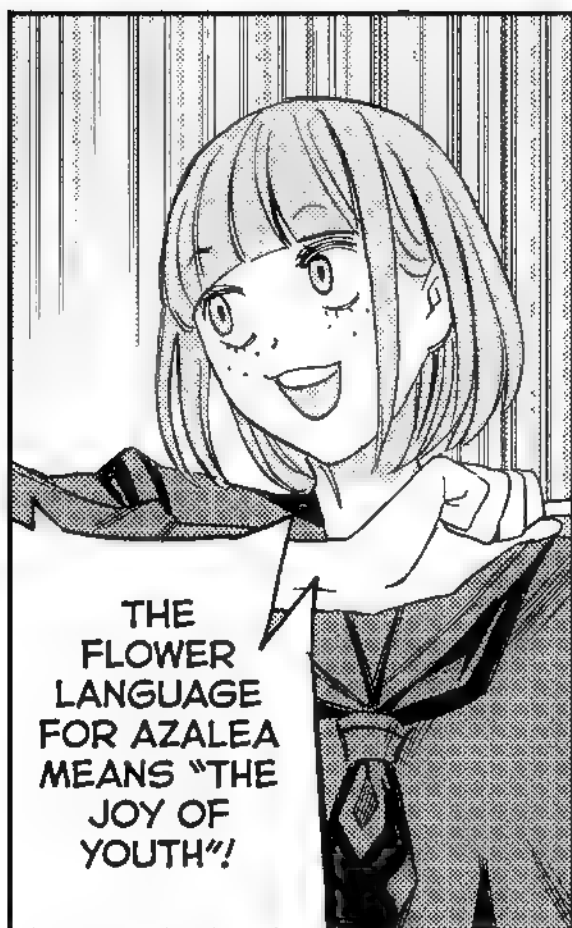


LET'S  
ROCK  
OUT OUR  
YOUTHS!

HELP  
US!



LET'S  
DO IT!



THE  
FLOWER  
LANGUAGE  
FOR AZALEA  
MEANS "THE  
JOY OF  
YOUTH"!



NANAMI!  
DON'T  
GET TOO  
EXCITED!



I CAN'T BELIEVE  
I GET TO PLAY  
BACKUP FOR  
EAST-SOUTH!  
I'M GETTING  
GOOSEBUMPS!



**"THE  
WIND'S  
ROCK!!"**

**HERE'S  
OUR  
SONG!**

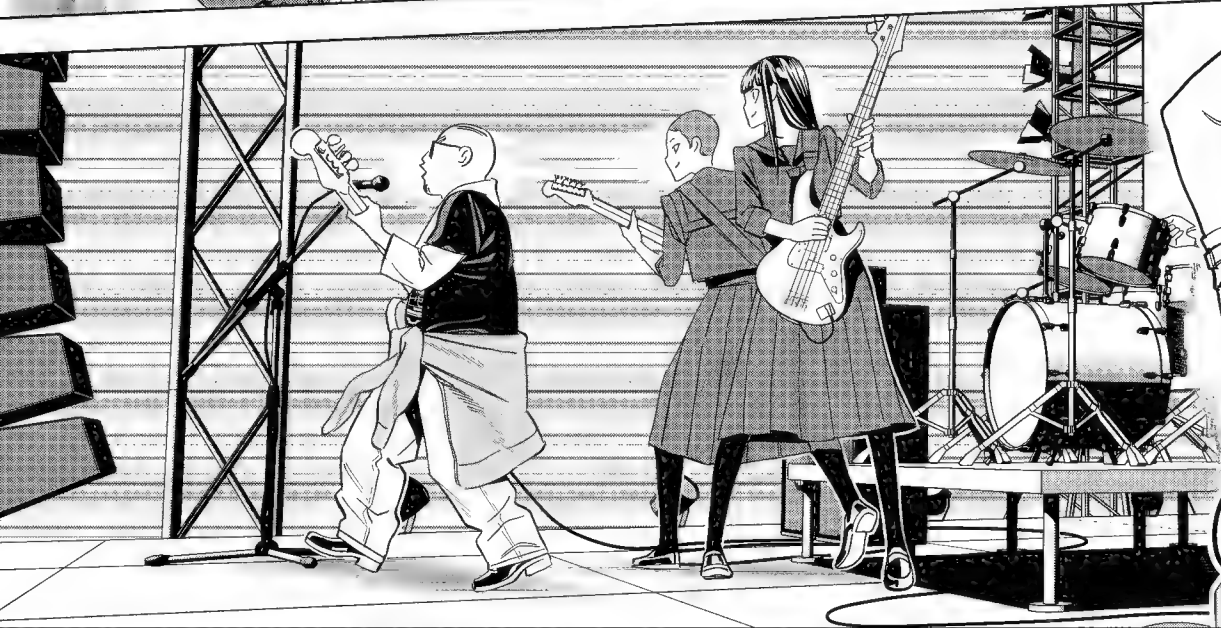
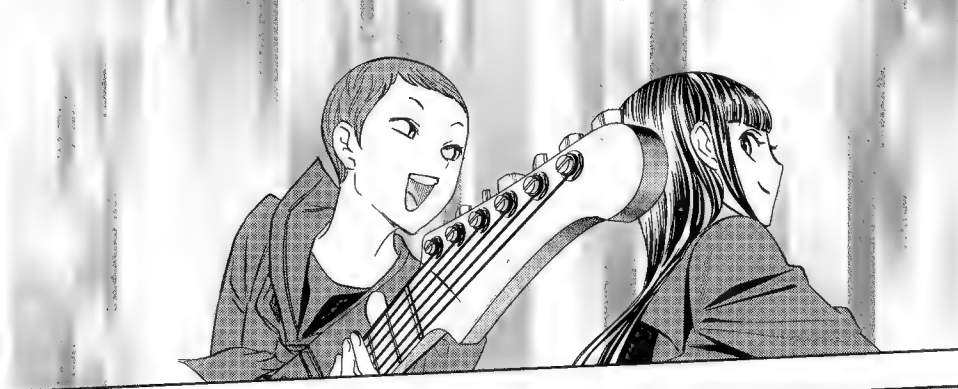


42  
604  
1009  
111121

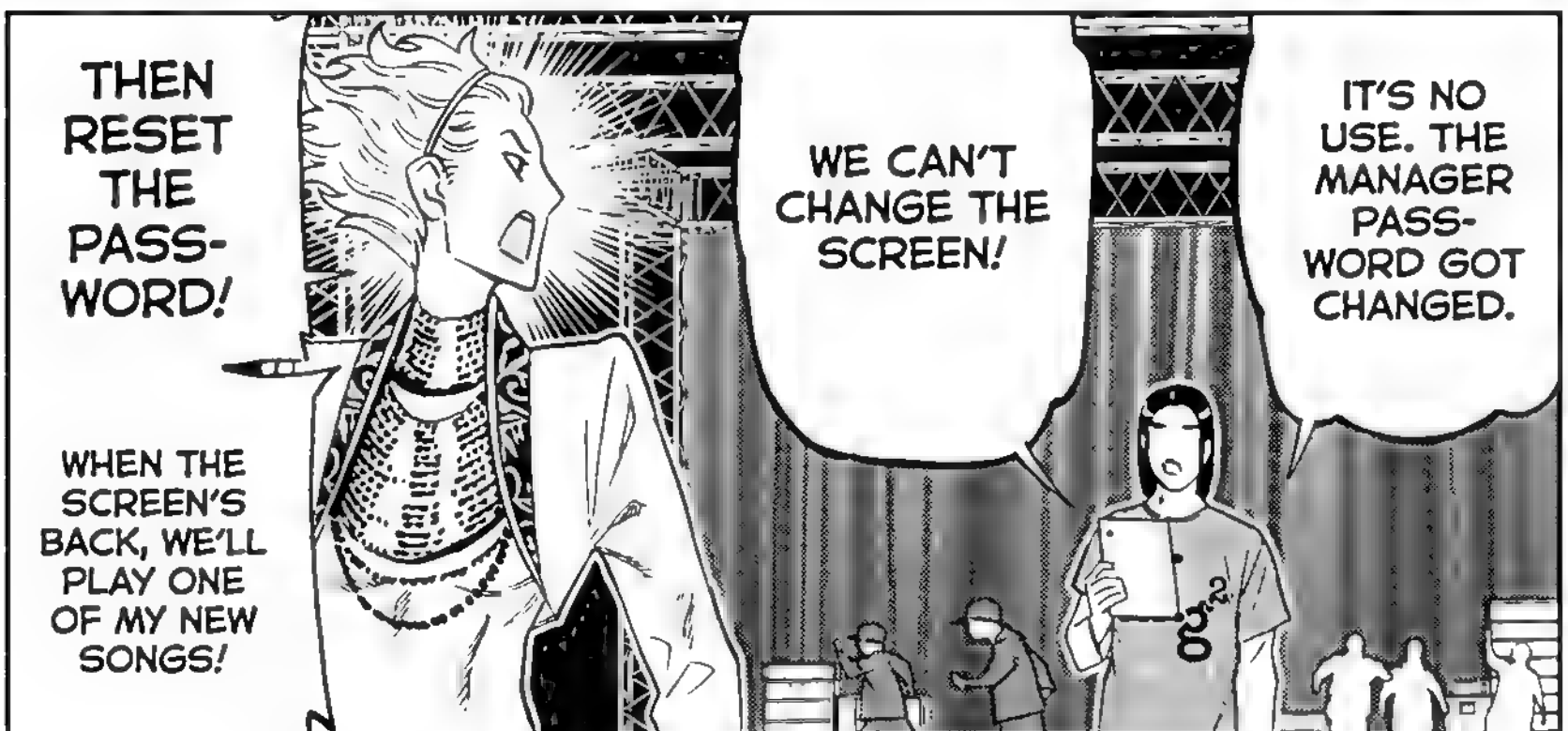
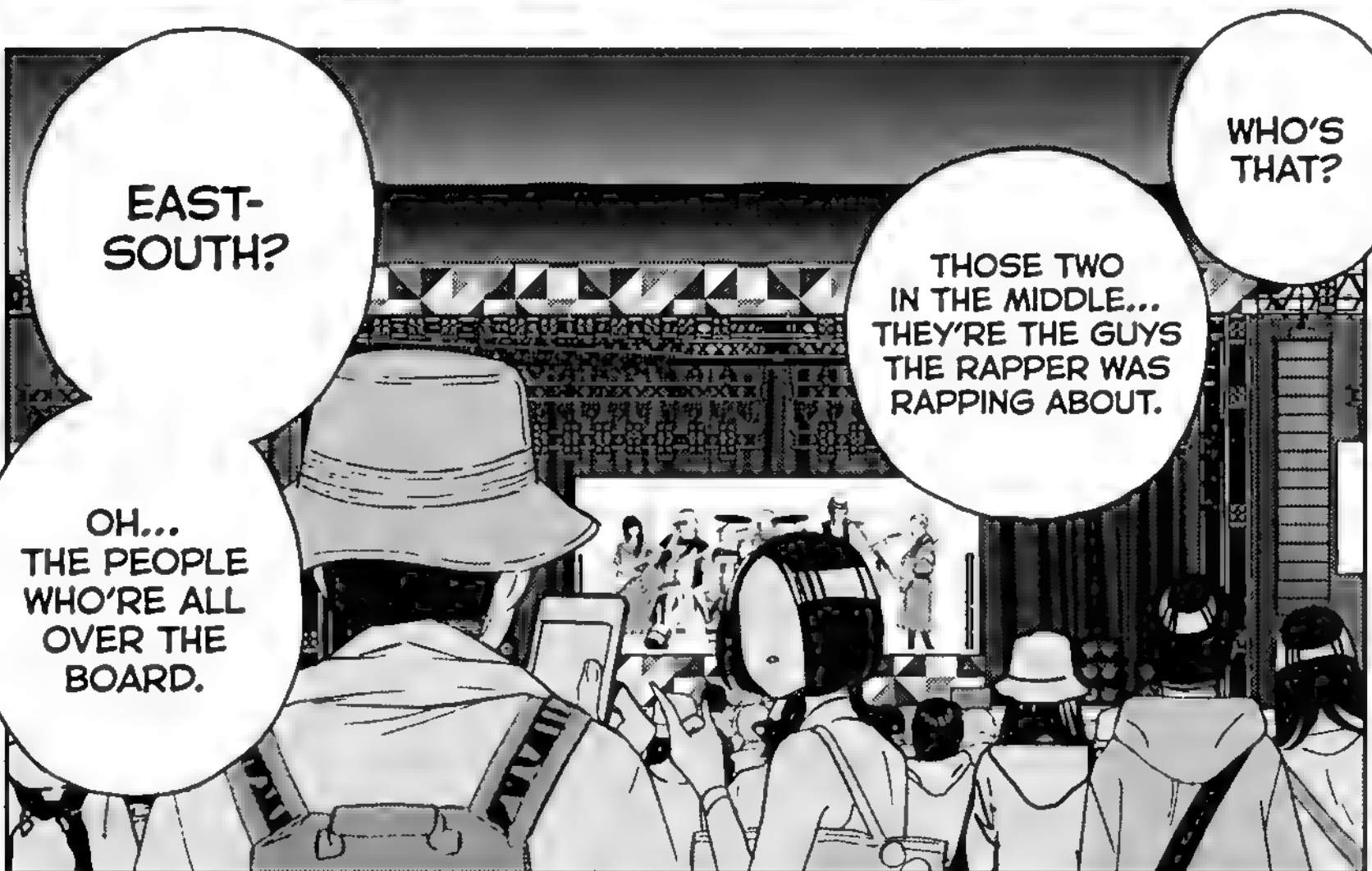


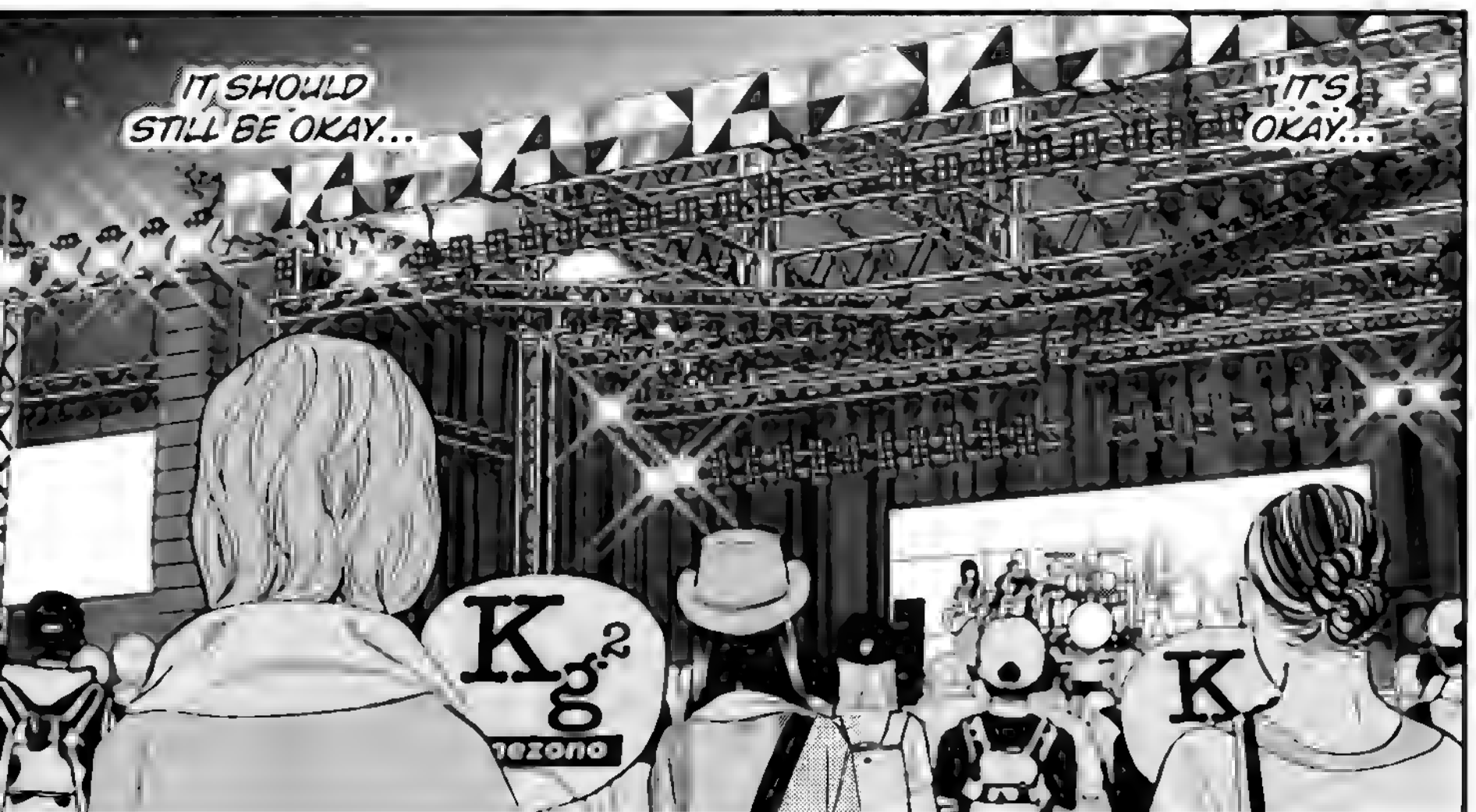
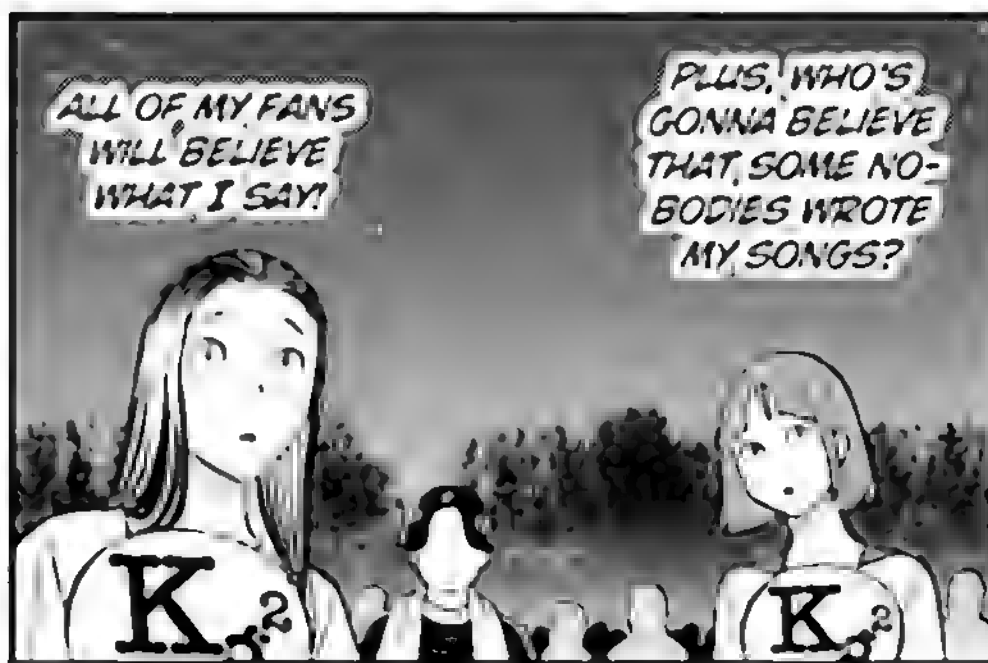
CHAPTER 98 Listen to the Wind's Song



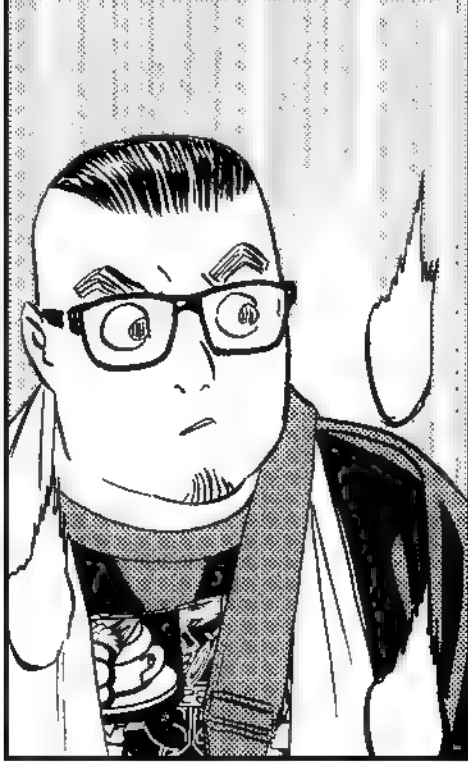
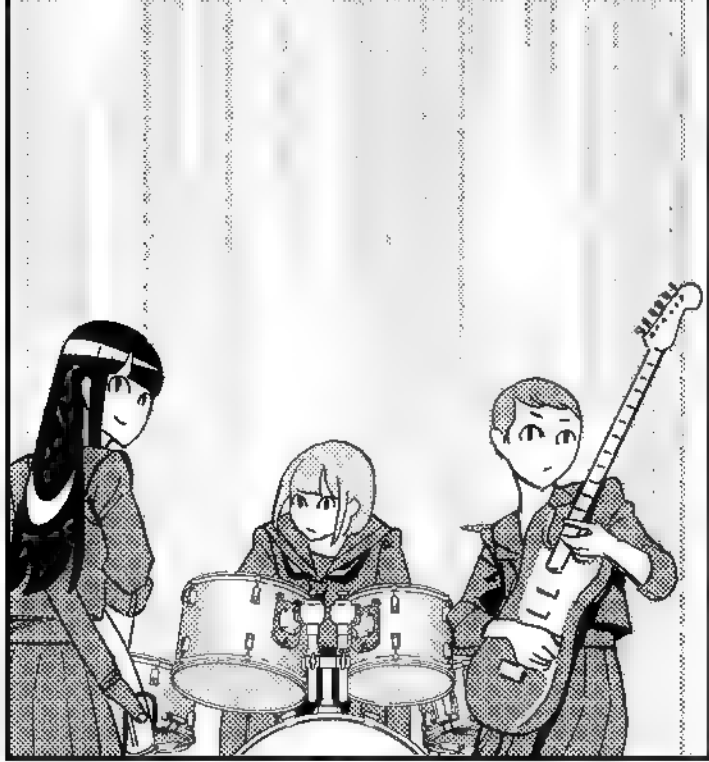










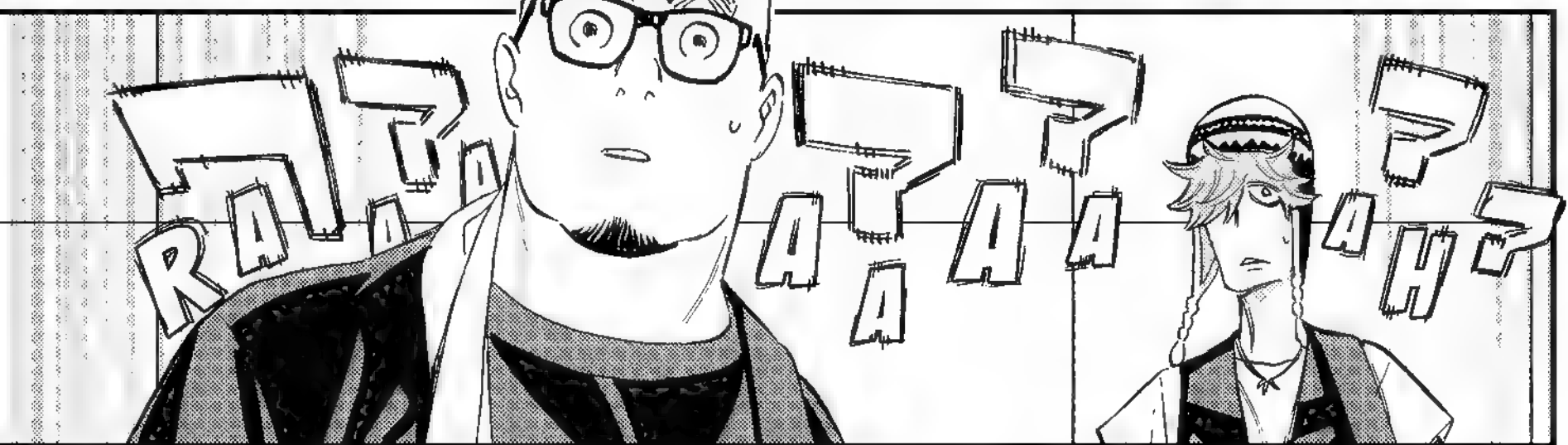


**WE'VE  
BEEN  
WAITING  
!!**

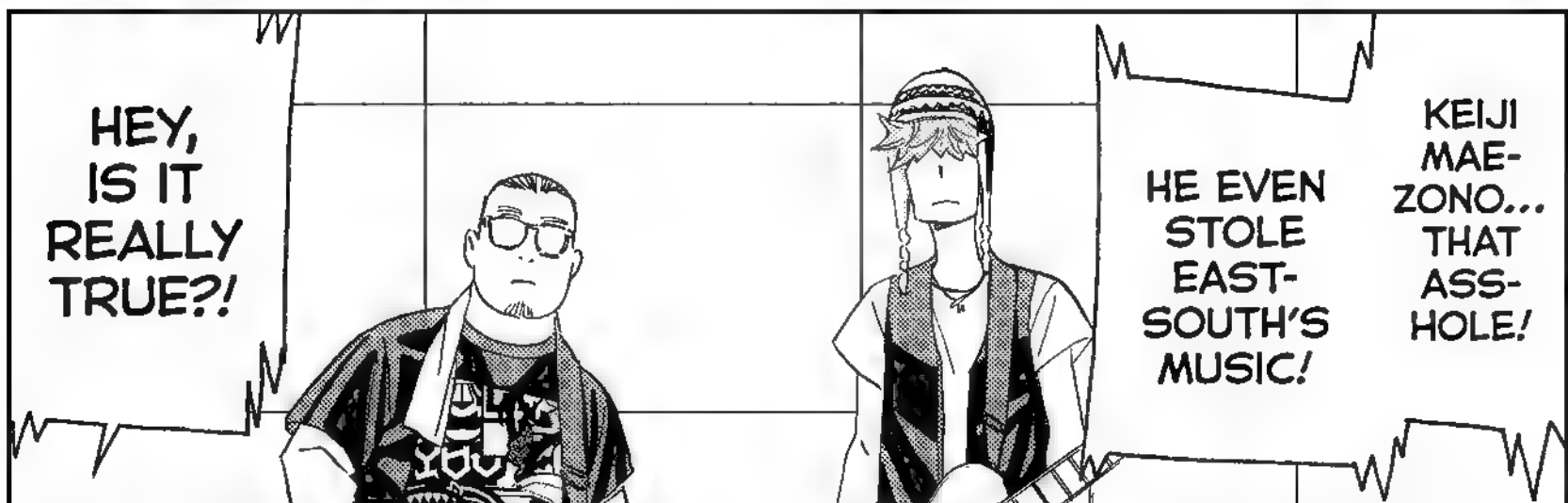
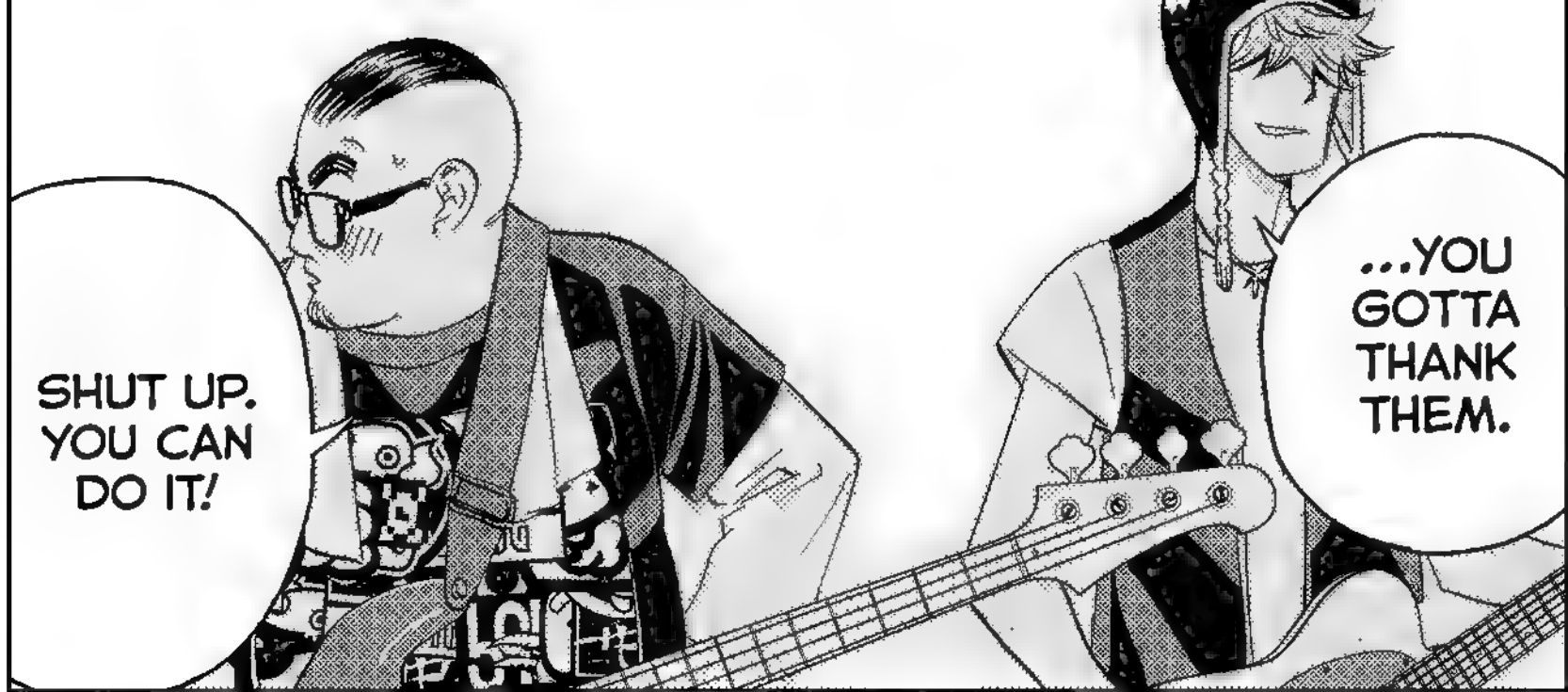
**WELCOME  
BACK,  
EAST-  
SOUTH!**

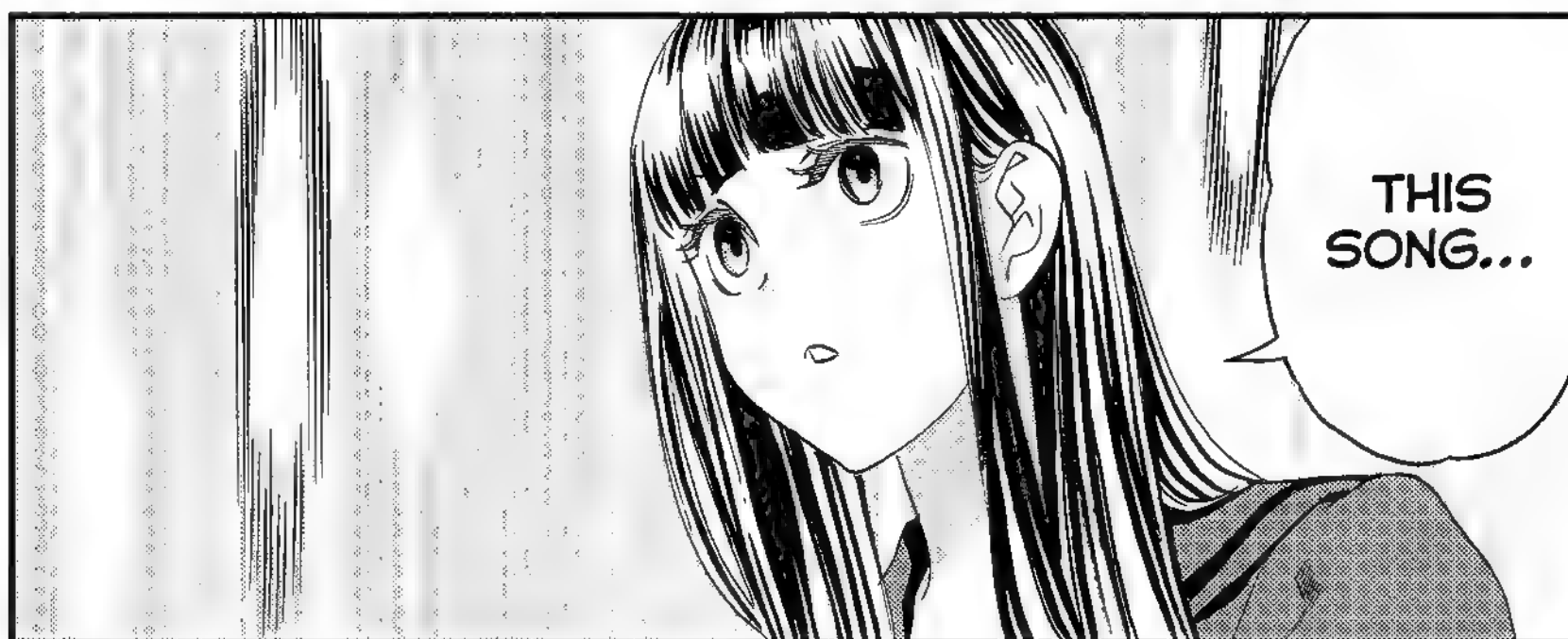
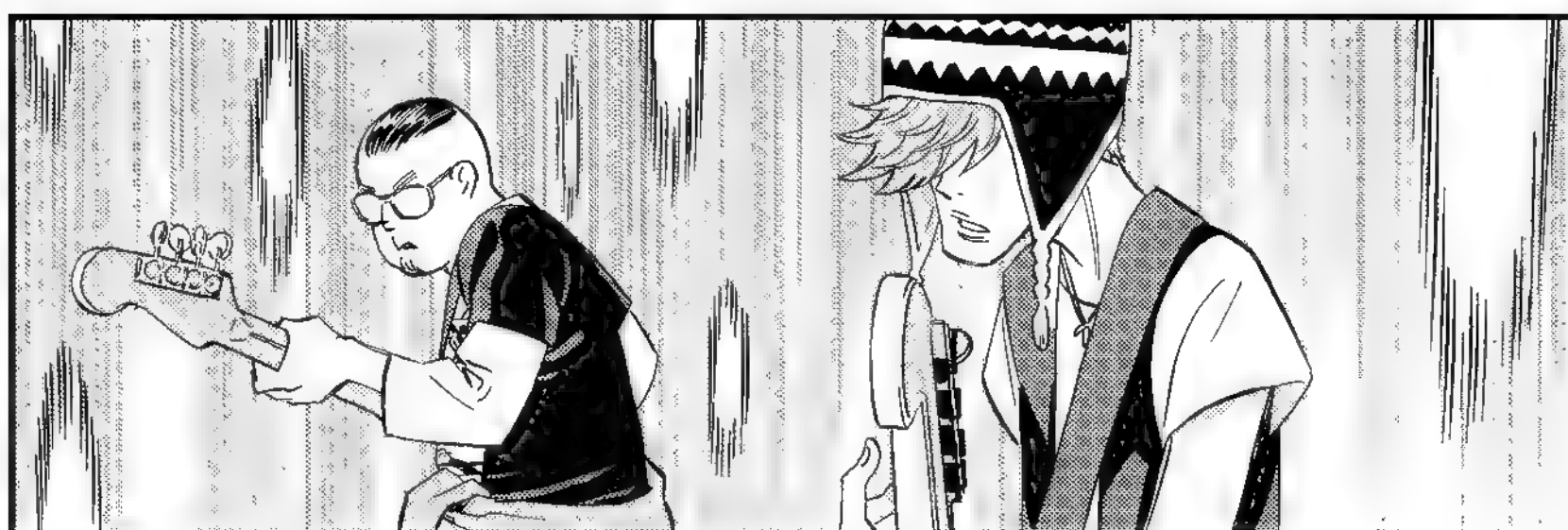
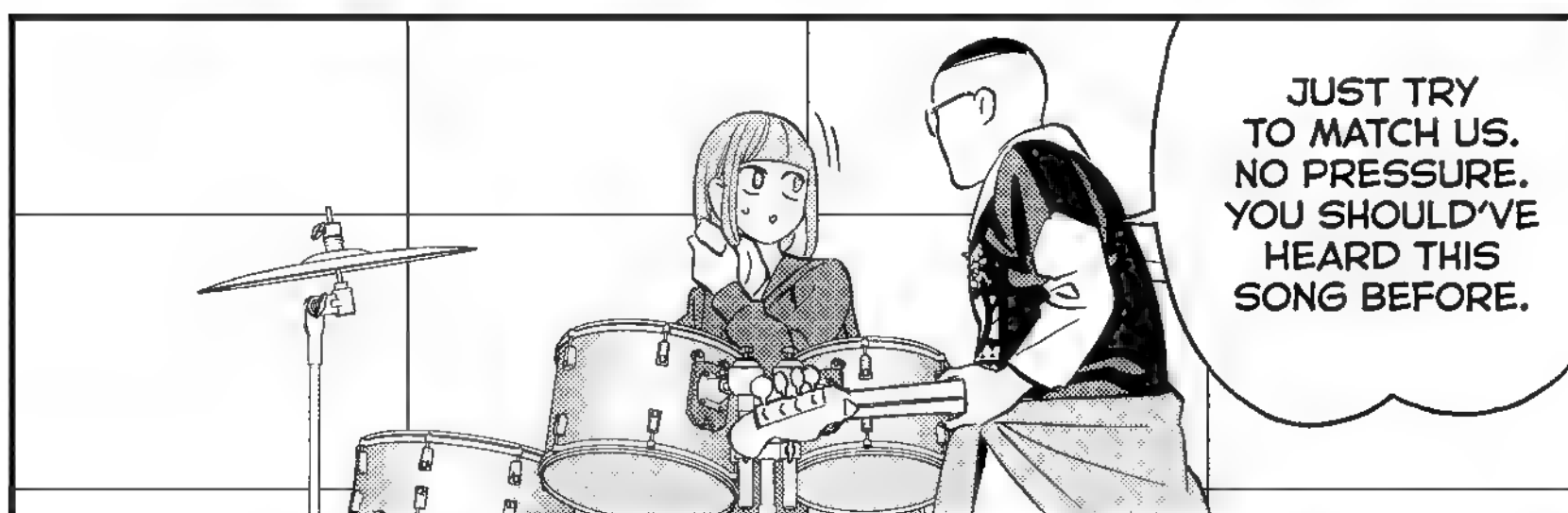
**WE'VE  
BEEN  
WAITING  
!!**

**WELCOME  
BACK,  
EAST-  
SOUTH!**

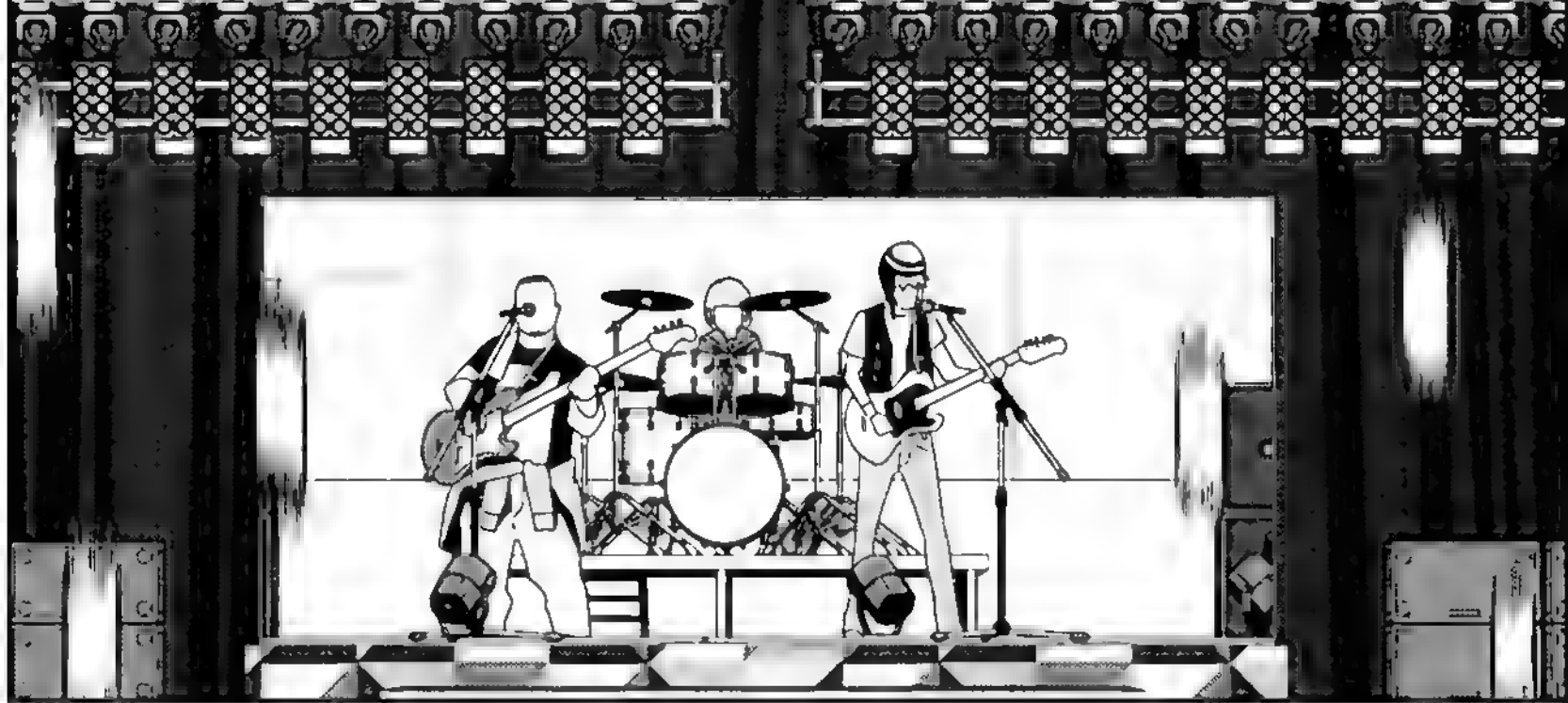












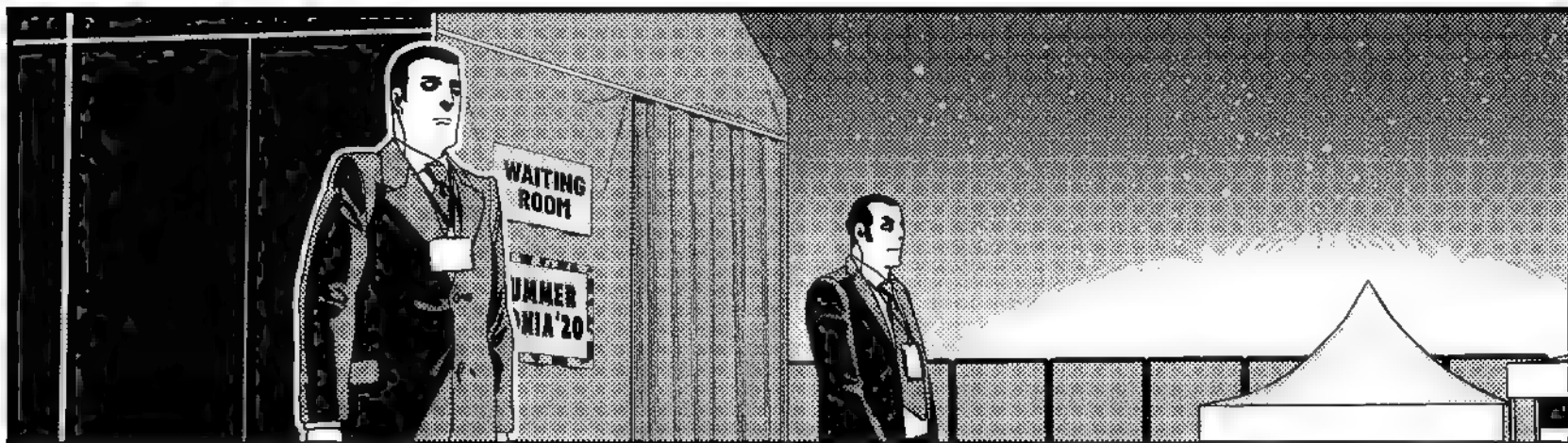
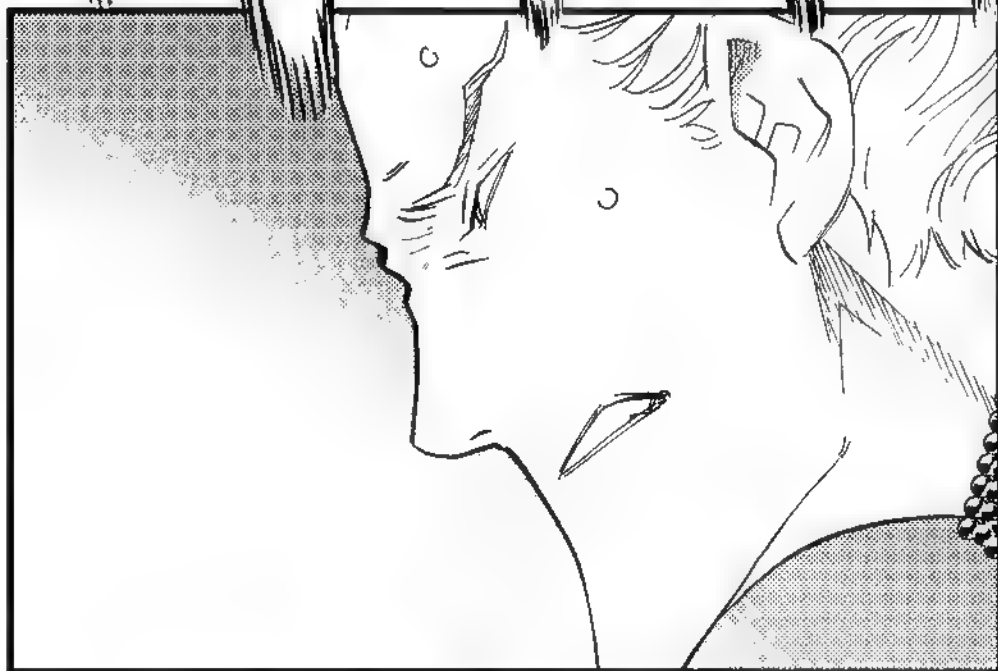
THIS  
PERFOR-  
MANCE IS  
PROOF  
ENOUGH!

KEIJI  
MADE  
EAST-  
SOUTH  
WRITE HIS  
MUSIC  
FOR HIM!

GO LOOK  
AT THE  
MUSIC  
SHEET  
VERIFICA-  
TION  
ON THE  
SUMMER  
SONIA  
BOARDS!

BUT KEIJI-  
SAMA'S  
BETTER!

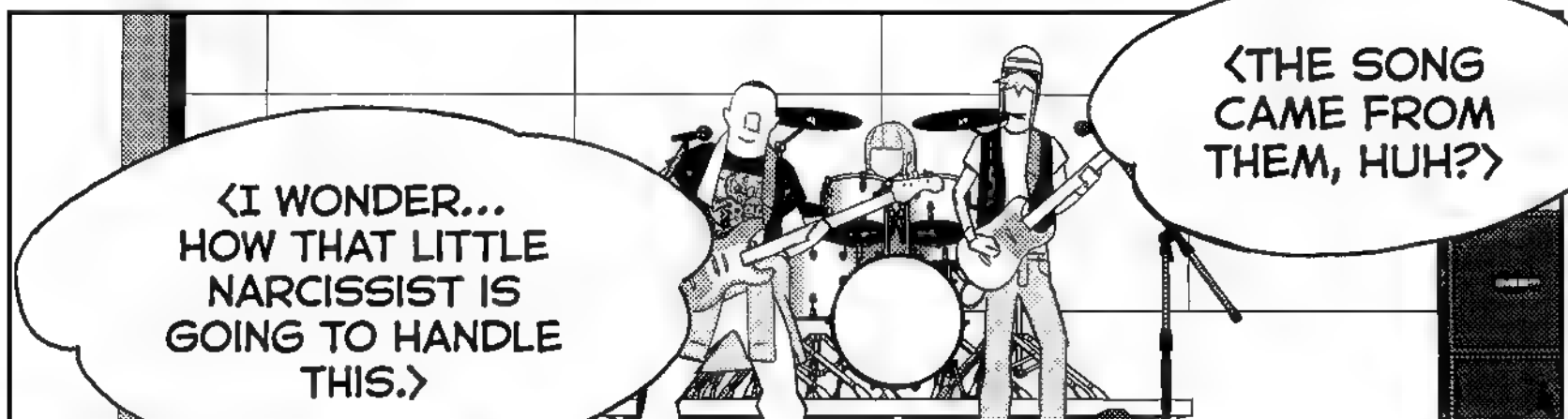
IS IT TRUE  
THEY WERE  
WRITING  
FOR HIM?!





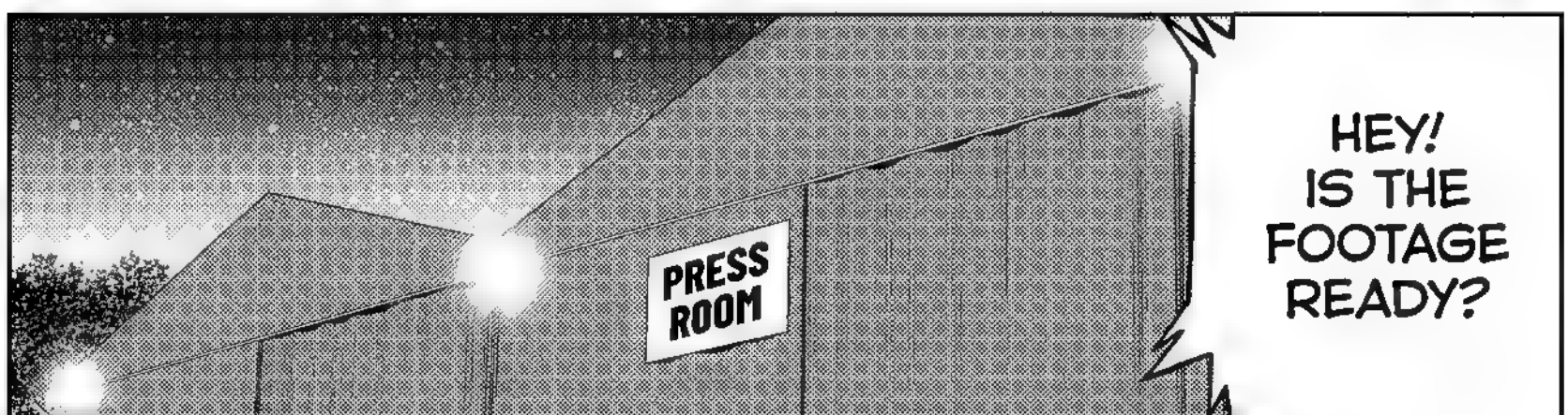


〈SO THIS IS  
WHAT THAT WEIRD  
FEELING WAS...〉

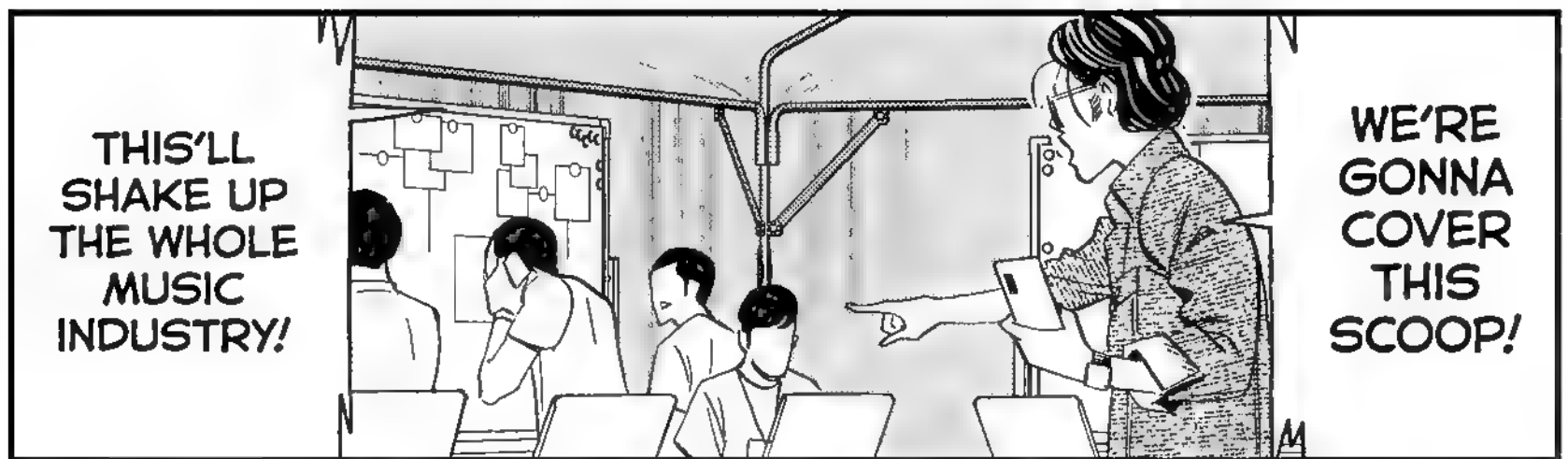


〈I WONDER...  
HOW THAT LITTLE  
NARCISSIST IS  
GOING TO HANDLE  
THIS.〉

〈THE SONG  
CAME FROM  
THEM, HUH?〉



HEY!  
IS THE  
FOOTAGE  
READY?







I'M  
PERFECT.

I'M THE  
CENTER OF  
THE WORLD,  
WITH MONEY,  
INFLUENCE,  
AND TALENT.

SO WHY...  
HOW...?

It's true that  
Keiji Maezono had  
East-South work as his  
ghostwriters, right?

Just look at the  
proof on the boards!

ARE BEING  
FURTHER  
FANNED...

formance  
ou'll know!

Keiji had  
East-South write  
all his music!

...BY THE  
SOUTH-  
EAST  
WINDS

that Keiji  
used East-South  
to make his  
music?

Explain yourself,  
Keiji Maezono!

You can tell from  
watching them play, right?  
East-South wrote his  
music!

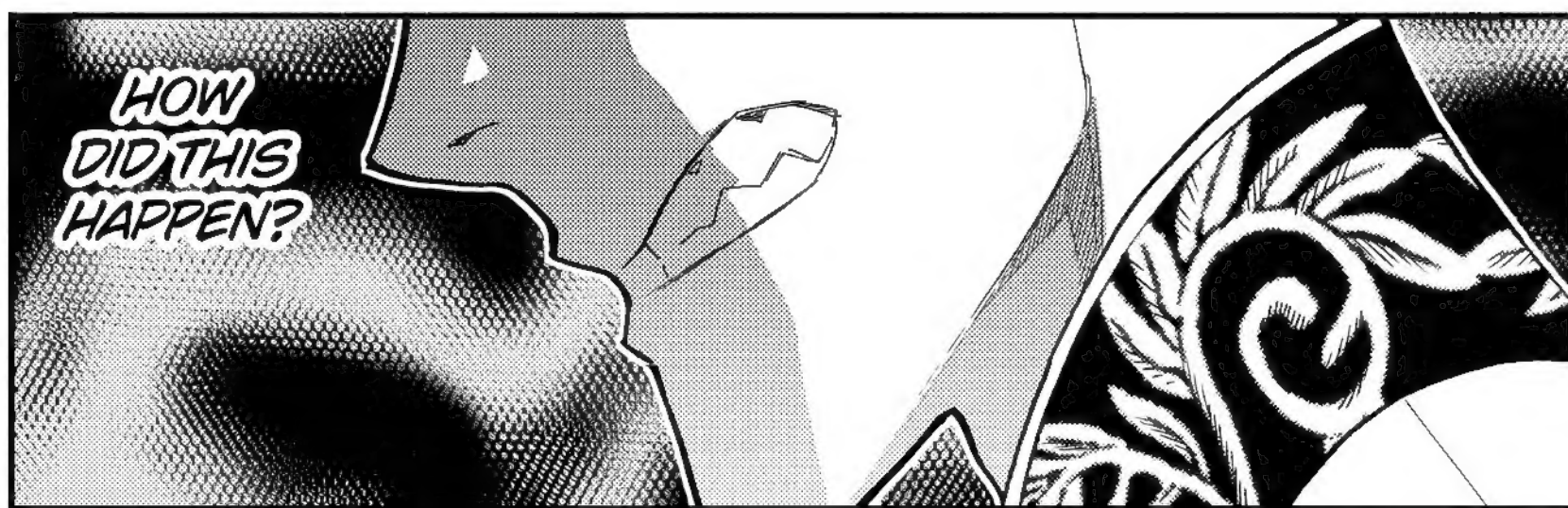
Keiji-sama's  
better!

Keiji-sama would  
never do that!









***Ya Boy Kongming! 12***

Kodansha Digital Edition

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